

974. 773
H2h

HISTORICAL SKETCHES - - *of* Old New Berlin



*Being a second Printing of some Articles
from ye Pen of ye late JOHN
HYDE, Esquire, first pub-
lished in 1876*



*"Ye good Olde Days
And their pleasant ways"*



¶ *Being also VOLUME ONE of Transac-
tions of the Unadilla Valley Historical Society
Anno Domini . . Nineteen hundred and seven*

TN-2422863

Historical Sketches of Old New Berlin

JOHN HYDE

DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS ROOM

Oakland Family History Center

4766 Lincoln Avenue

Oakland, CA 94602

All items obtained with DONATIONS

TO BE USED - NOT ABUSED!



JOHN HYDE, Esq.

Drawn by Mrs. Sarah Todd Sprague from a
daguerreotype.



*Done for ye Historical Society at ye
Printing Shop of Geo. H. Willard, in
ye Village of New Berlin . . 1907*



FOREWORD



HIS little volume owes its existence to a desire, on the part of members of the Unadilla Valley Historical Society, to preserve valuable records which had their first and only previous publication in a local newspaper, of which probably not more than one or two files now remain.

The Society was so fortunate as to secure, some time ago, the loan of a complete file of the papers containing Mr. Hyde's historical articles, and at a meeting held December 11, 1905, their publication was discussed. A committee—Mr. George H. Willard, Miss Mary I. White and Mr. Horatio P. Ball—was appointed to consider the matter. This committee made its report at a meeting held April 16, 1906, and at the next meeting, June 11, 1906, it was decided by the Society to publish the papers, and the same committee was continued to take charge of the work.

In view of the value of Mr. Hyde's contributions of more than a generation ago to the history of the village and vicinity of New Berlin, at a time when others seem not to have been particularly concerned for the preservation of the data which he, perhaps better than anyone else then living, could give, it would appear that those now interested in the early annals of the community owe to his labors more than a passing acknowledgement.

For this reason, the committee early determined upon an attempt to make the work consigned to them something more than a plain pamphlet, and deemed it best not to confine it to a bare reprint of the papers.

To this end, a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Hyde has been included, with a portrait and an illustration of the little office which was the scene of his labors, and foot-notes have

been appended where necessary to the elucidation of the text for the present generation.

The committee, while conscious that their work may be in many ways imperfect and unsatisfactory, pleads for the lenient consideration which inexperience should secure. Its members have regarded the work as a labor of love, and have earnestly tried to make this, the first publication of the Unadilla Valley Historical Society, something of a memorial to the annalist who, long after reaching the years of the Psalmist's allotment, was the pioneer historian of the Unadilla Valley.





BIOGRAPHICAL



THE facts in the following sketch, and, indeed, much of its language, are taken from the files of the "New Berlin Gazette" and from a paper on "The Lawyers of New Berlin" by Harry J. Mosher, Esq., read before the Unadilla Valley Historical Society on February 13, 1905.

John Hyde was born at Franklin, Connecticut, June 24, 1791. His parents removed to Hartwick, Otsego county, in 1801, and from there to Columbus, Chenango county, the next year. For a time he attended school at Hamilton, finishing his school life there—and made his frequent visits to his home on foot, a distance of fourteen miles.

In 1811, he commenced the study of law with Stephen O. Runyan, a prominent attorney of Oxford, completing his studies with John Tracy, Esq., of the same place. While in Oxford, he for a time taught in its famous Academy.

Admitted to the bar in 1816, he began the practice of his profession in New Berlin in the same year, equipped with a law library consisting solely of four volumes of Blackstone, of the edition of 1799, which he had purchased from his preceptor, Mr. Runyan. These four volumes are still in the possession of his daughter. He at first occupied a portion of the office of Dr. Ebenezer Ross, the second physician to locate in New Berlin. This was situated on Genesee street, near the present residence of John L. Fuller. In 1821 he built on the property which he acquired on North Main street, the little brick office which he thereafter occupied, and which was for eighty years one of the landmarks of the village. It is shown, together with his residence in the background, in one of our illustrations. He was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of this State

at the January term in 1821, his commission bearing the signature of Chief Justice Ambrose Spencer. Like most of the young men of that time, Mr. Hyde was interested in military affairs, and on May 3, 1816, he was commissioned Lieutenant in the 133d Regiment by Gov. Daniel D. Tompkins. March 9, 1820, Gov. De Witt Clinton made him Adjutant of the 190th Regiment, and on April 28, 1827, he was commissioned Judge Advocate of the Second Brigade of Horse Artillery.

On January 9, 1840, he was admitted to practice in the Court of Chancery in this state by Chancellor Reuben Hyde Walworth. This eminent jurist was distantly related to Mr. Hyde, and the latter's name appears in the Hyde genealogy compiled by the Chancellor.

Mr. Hyde was Town Clerk in 1821 and 1826, and President of the Village of New Berlin in 1853 and 1855. He took an active interest in political affairs, being a Whig in his earlier years, and identifying himself with the Republican party from its formation. He was witty as well as wise, with an excellent educational equipment for his times, and was a fine penman. His kindness, honesty and integrity commanded the esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens.

Among the students who gained a knowledge of the legal profession in his office were George Blakeslee and Levi Blakeslee, Jr., sons of that Levi Blakeslee after whom the village of New Berlin was first called Blakeslee's Corners. Another was John P. Usher, who came from Brookfield, was admitted to the bar in 1837, practiced in company with Mr. Hyde for two years, and then removed to Indiana, from which state he was called to the position of Secretary of the Interior in the cabinet of President Lincoln.

Mr. Hyde married, in 1818, a daughter of Lemuel Bennett, of Pittsfield. She died in 1869, leaving one daughter, who still survives.

In the ninety-seventh year of his age, Mr. Hyde died at his home in this village on January 17, 1888, after an illness of

only a few days, following an attack of paralysis. He remained in the fullest possession of his faculties up to his final illness, having never worn glasses, though able to read fine print during the last year of his life.

Mr. Hyde lived to an age when his recollections of early days and early settlers ante-dated that of any other living resident. Writing of him in an article in the "New Berlin Gazette" of May 8, 1886, Rev. E. T. Jacobs, who himself had been a pastor of the Baptist church in New Berlin almost half a century earlier, said:


"He remembers coming to New Berlin on an errand for his father, who was building a barn and wanted nails. Levi Blakeslee was keeping a store, the first in town, and the only one at that time. On calling for nails he was told to go to the blacksmith shop run by Peleg Fields, the first in town, and they would make some. There he found nails forged out, yet, like some of the boys in town, they had no heads. A young man was busy heading nails by putting them into the vice and a few strokes of the hammer flattened down the end and made a head. That young man was A. C. Welch, afterwards General Welch, distinguished as a military officer, a commanding figure on general training days so much enjoyed by young and old in ye olden times."





HISTORICAL SKETCHES

I.

N the Fourth day of July, 1776, the Congress of the United Colonies agreed to the Declaration of Independence, the delegates signed it and published it by order of Congress. From that period the Fourth of July has always been celebrated as the anniversary of the birth-day of the nation.

And on the 4th of July, 1876, the nation numbers one hundred birthdays. The Genius of Liberty still presides in our councils, and the flag of the nation retains its accustomed place on the dome of the capitol, emblem of the national character and evidence that the union of the United States remains unimpaired and the people of all the States may celebrate the centennial birthday of the nation as free citizens.

In the early days of the Republic the topics that occupied the thought, and claimed the attention on 4th of July celebrations, were the causes which incited to action and aroused the people to declare their right to withdraw all allegiance from

the British crown, and be admitted into the family of nations as a free and independent State.

Then, on such occasions the patriots, statesmen and soldiers who had been actors in the grand drama of the Revolution formed the audiences to listen, and to hear recounted the battles fought and won by the oppressed against the oppressor in the sacred cause of freedom in resisting the arbitrary power of the British monarch, and to discuss, explain and comment upon the Declaration of Independence, and the principles therein contained.

But the seats of the patriots and the statesmen and the soldiers at the centennial celebration are vacant; they are no more an audience to hear the Declaration of Independence read, and the noble deeds performed to uphold and maintain it rehearsed. A new generation occupy their place, but freedom's cause for which they had toiled and fought, survives the wreck of time and the limit of human life, and the blessings of the Constitutional Government, established by our ancestors, continue to be enjoyed by all the inhabitants of the land.

Having on the battlefield overturned and confuted the doctrine of the divine right of kings to rule over and oppress unwilling subjects, and established the more consistent and rational creed, that all men are created equal, and by force of

arms, compelled the British monarch to acknowledge the independence of the thirteen United States, and having established a free and independent government, a new field of enterprise engaged the attention of New England's busy, industrious, working men, who, with promptitude entered upon the work of extending the benefits of civilization into the wilds and securing homes for the surplus population of the Atlantic States.

A large tract of wild land on the west side of the Unadilla river was included in a territory within the twenty townships ceded to the State by the Indians, in a treaty held by George Clinton at Fort Schuyler, September 22, 1788. This tract is sometimes called Clinton's purchase, and sometimes called the Governor's purchase, and in 1793, Feb'y. 14th, the 16th township was sold by the state to John Taylor, of the city of Albany, who together with John I. Morgan, William Simmons, and Mr. Boyd, of the city of New York, became the owners, and also the owners of the 17th township at the same time. These owners made a division of the lots by putting the numbers of the several lots into a ballot box, and each person alternately drawing out the number to be his lot. The twenty towns were formerly designated by their numbers, now by the names since given them.

The twenty towns were laid out each six miles square and subdivided into 250 acre lots as near

as could conveniently be done. The sixteenth township contained 18,713 acres, and the adjoining town, seventeenth township, 18,068 acres. The land after the division had been made, was offered for sale to settlers, and at once attracted the attention of the eastern people or Yankees, as the Indians called the white people when they first come among them on the Atlantic coast.

The sixteenth township began to be settled in the latter part of the last century, by these eastern Yankees mostly. Some came from the land of johnny-cakes and clams, some from the land of blue laws, wooden clocks and tin peddlers, and others from the land of Boston notions and Salem witches.

The emigrants who first undertook to settle this wild forest, encountered the privations and difficulties of frontier life, with strong Yankee resolution and toiled and worked and labored until the sixteenth township was changed from a wilderness into cultivated farms, and the hills and valleys, where unmolested once roamed the wolf, the panther and the bear, now feed choice breeds of domestic animals, the pride of the farmer and the wealth of the town.

II.



ANIEL SCRIBNER was one of the first emigrants who settled in the sixteenth township. He came with his family* into the town in 1790, and settled on a lot on the west side of the Unadilla river, and opposite the place called the Indian Fields, and near the celebrated sheet of water called Shacktown Pond,† and a Jew who had a tract of land called the Jew's Patent, had laid out a city in embryo adjoining the pond, which project, had it been carried into execution, would have made Mr. Scribner's location an important situation in process of time, being on the opposite bank of the river. But the Jew died, and the city advanced no farther in the process of civilization than to become a cow pasture.

Mr. Scribner built a large and commodious log house on a high piece of ground a short distance from the river, commanding a fine view of the valley up and down the river, and the scenery on the other side. He kept tavern several years. The sixteenth township at that time was part of Norwich and town meetings and elections were

*From Ballston, Saratoga county. He had intended to settle at Morris, but learning of Indian improvements on the Unadilla that could be purchased, changed his destination.

†Now better known as Silver Lake.

held at his house part of the time, and at Amasa Mead's or Hascal Ransford's taverns on the Chenango river at other times. Mr. Scribner was an industrious, prudent farmer, and with the help of his two sons, Samuel and Gamaliel, who were nearly grown up, he soon cleared up his farm.

Neighbors were "few and far between" in those days, but were kind and friendly. Among the many inconveniences attendant upon and fully realized by the first settlers was the difficulty of procuring their corn ground into meal, the nearest grist mill being at a far-off distance up the Susquehanna river, and none but water communication to the mill. To lessen the burden of this domestic grain-grinding necessity the neighbors united together and brought their bags of grain to Mr. Scribner's house. A canoe, dug out of an immense pine tree, was duly launched into the Unadilla river and the grists put on board.

Two men, though sometimes only one, took charge of the cargo and away they sped down the crooked Unadilla river into the Susquehanna, and up that river to the grist mill, situated on Oake's creek, about two miles from its mouth, where it empties into the Susquehanna river. This creek is the outlet of Schuyler's Lake, and this mill was erected in 1790. The voyage to and back from the grist-grinding expedition took about a week and sometimes longer. In fair weather the voyage

was pleasant sailing along the river current under the branches of the overhanging forest trees, and when could be seen on the distant hill-side the antlered deer sporting in their native wilds with their young fawns, or the white lake gulls floating in the air winging their flight from one lake to another, and, cheering on in their peculiar sounding voices, flocks of wild ducks might be seen in the coves swimming about heedless of the passing canoe, for as yet they had not learned the danger and inhumanity of man. But sometimes adverse weather met the inland mariners and compelled them to take shelter on the shore during the dark and tempestuous night. Then might be heard the muttered growling of the wolf, and other wild beasts sounded discordant notes on the unwilling ear and too near to permit quiet sleep to the weary travelers. But escaping "the perils of flood and field," the inhabitants were made glad by the safe arrival of provisions to relieve their half-famished families when the voyage was of a protracted length of two weeks' duration, as sometimes happened.

Incidents sometimes occurred among the early settlers, partaking of the ludicrous in the development, as well as difficult and dangerous in the performance. An instance of the kind took place on Doctor Dan Foote's farm,* about two miles as

*Now owned by John Foote, Esq.

the river runs below Mr. Scribner's. Dr. Dan Foote was one of the first settlers, an amiable man, a good neighbor and skillful in his profession, and was possessed of a strong and determined resolution, well calculated to meet and surmount the difficulties and dangers of a frontier and any jeopardy, come how it might.

At considerable expense and trouble he had become the owner of a valuable porker, an animal detested by the Jews but liked by Christians, as well as certain savage roamers of the forest. This porker was installed in a tenement, with a nice litter of pigs almost full grown. A dense swamp was on one side of the pen, and a high, steep hill on the other. This pig family, on one eventful summer's day, gave the alarm that a savage foe had broken in upon them, by boisterous, loud squealing signs of distress. It was a favorable opportunity for the pilferer; the Doctor and his men Esquire Marvin and Elisha Marvin were absent in a distant hayfield at work, and none but women were left to guard the premises. The women, on hearing the commotion, went out to discover the cause, and soon found that a huge black bear, the monarch of the forest, who in right of his forest law, had seized and taken possession of one of the best members of the hog family, was in the very act of pulling the unwilling member out of the pen. The signal horn was

blown, but before the expected aid arrived the ravenous prowler had dragged his bleeding victim away up the mountain path, and into the sheltering woods where, undisturbed, he could feed on the swine-flesh, his favorite food, at his leisure. But the avengers were on his track and found him in his lair before he had finished his dinner.

The Doctor came, armed with a shot-gun, and immediately discharged it at the bear. As the gun was fired, the Doctor's dog rushed in and the bear pulled him in under. Doctor Foote then struck the bear with his unloaded gun, to save the dog. The bear, good at gymnastic exercises, warded off the blow and hauled under Doctor Foote. Elisha Marvin came to the rescue and was put under. Esquire Marvin followed in to help, and shared a like fate with the rest; all under by the supreme strenght of the bear. So far the "wager of battle" between civilized man and brute force, in regard to the question of title to the hog, appeared to be in favor of the captor, and the bear likely to finish his dinner without further interruption. The dog in the confusion had extricated himself and ingloriously fled, howling, home, covered with blood. In the meanwhile the bear had his three assailants down and apparently at his mercy, but Dr. Foote managed to get his pocket knife out, and with one hand and teeth, to open it, his other hand being confined,

and with the dexterity and knowledge of a practical surgeon, struck one vigorous blow aimed at the heart. The blow was fatal; the old bear arose off his wounded assailants, left them, staggered down the hill a few rods and fell dead. Civilized arts of war were victorious over brute force. When the dog arrived home covered with wounds and blood, the women, anxious for the fate of their friends, sent a young man by the name of Franklin to ascertain, who met the bear in the midst of its last struggle in the agonies of death, and as the bear fell and began to roll down hill, the messenger turned and fled back, supposing the bear to be in pursuit of him, and told the women that the men were all dead. He was then sent to ask Elder Camp, who lived on the other side of the river to come over and help them. The young man, when he came to the bank of the river, the canoe being on the other side, yelled to the Elder and told his errand, and said that there were four men dead, "Dr. Foote, Esquire Marvin, Elisha Marvin and myself, all killed by a bear." Stronger minds than this boy had, have conceived more irrational things by illusion of the imagination than this boy did when he included himself among the number killed because he was "chased" by a dead bear.

Soon after, Elder Camp came over to assist in performing the last sad duty the living owe to the dead, the supposed dead men arrived home from

the battle-field somewhat disfigured by the casualties of war, blood-stained by wounds, limbs torn and scratched, clothes rent, fingers bitten, but all safe from serious danger.

They received the congratulations of friends for the narrow escape and much rejoicing was had over the carcass of the grim old dead bear, who, while living had been the pest and terror to the whole neighborhood, as much as was the wolf killed by "old Put," of Revolutionary memory; and for this noble, hazardous and perilous undertaking of Dr. Dan Foote, he deserves to go down to posterity with as much credit for killing the ferocious bear, as did Gen. Putnam for killing the wolf. Let their names be associated in the narration, and the stories of the wolf and the bear be told on the same page in the future school book editions.

NOTE—The site of the old Scribner tavern mentioned in the foregoing paper, is located on the farm now owned by L. S. Chapin.



III.



THE first emigrants who began a settlement in the town of New Berlin, were oftentimes sorely troubled for provisions before they were able to clear up their wild lands and raise crops for bread.

Many times has the mother been obliged to send her children supperless to their bed, while the husband and father was absent, traveling the forest path to a distant settlement in quest of food to supply the family wants.

Having located his lot, the first important business for the emigrant is to build a log house, a family residence. For this purpose he selects a place near a spring of water or a running brook, and clears it off, ready for the erection of his dwelling house, to be composed of materials furnished by his own labor. With his woodman's axe, he cuts down trees of suitable size and of proper length intended for the dimensions of the building and a sufficient number for the height. These logs are to form the body of the building. Poles of suitable size and length are cut for the rafters. Elm bark supplies the place of shingles and basswood logs split into slabs furnish the floor.

All being ready, the neighbors are invited to a log house raising. The main building is to be

made of logs packed upon each other, and the ends interlocked by a dovetail process of construction, belonging to the ingenuity of a backwoodsman in the art of house building.

The building is made without the aid of the square and compass or any other of the carpenter's tools, or nails or iron or glass and like Solomon's temple, "there was neither hammer nor any tool of iron (except the axe) heard in the house while it was building." The roof is made of bark, peeled from the elm and tied on to the rafters with strings made of the inner rind of the bark, and the floor is made of split basswood slabs.

A "house warming," is considered proper for the introduction of the new comers into their new abode and to the more intimate acquaintance of their neighbors. A pastime called a "log-rolling bee" was not infrequent amongst the early settlers. After the "summer fallow" had been prepared, the trees felled and cut into log-rolling length, and the brush heaps burned, the neighbors are invited to a log-rolling bee. On the day appointed they come with their ox-teams, the logs are drawn and rolled into heaps, and the united strength of kind neighbors accomplishes a work which could not have been performed by one man alone. An agricultural log-rolling of former days smutted the outward man and his clothes; political log-rolling

of the present day bedaubs the inner man and his reputation.

At these social gatherings of the roundabout settlers, mirth and merriment mingled with the labors of the day, and cheerful and national songs enlivened the workmen; resounding in freedom's choicest notes and loud echoing through the woods might be heard, "Hail Columbia, happy, happy land." In the primitive society of New Berlin, the divine command, "Love thy neighbor as thou lovest thyself," seems to have been literally fulfilled in the mutual assistance rendered to each other.

Raising of crops on new land was simple and the tools of husbandry were equally so. In planting corn the turf was turned up with a hoe, kernels of corn tucked under and the turf turned back, and no farther labor was required but to keep the fire-weeds down until the corn harvest. Grain was sowed and harrowed in with a two pronged, wooden-tooth harrow, and harvested with a reaper's sickle, threshed with a flail and winnowed with a fan. Grass was mowed by a scythe, raked by hand and drawn on a sled to the stack or barn. Stumps and roots prevented the plough from being used in fixing the land for crops, or other machines for gathering them.

Flax was raised for summer clothing for the family, for there were no cotton factories. Flocks of sheep furnished wool for winter garments.

Wives and daughters were good spinners and made fine linen out of flax, and cloth out of the tow, and flannel out of wool which the clothier manufactured into cloth, some for women's wear, and some for men's wear. This kind of family clothing furnished a better protection against the summer's heat or winter's cold than can be had in this age of boasted improvement. Children were allowed to tumble about in coarse, loose dress, unshackled by gewgaw wrappings, enjoying the free use of their limbs; no steelspring carriages with stuffed seats to weaken the muscles and enfeeble the body. Girls and boys were early taught in the school of industry, acquiring habits of prudence and economy; success in after life was the result.


In that economical age of New Berlin's history, the tailor, with his yard stick, shears, needles, thimble, pressboard, and goose, went from house to house to make up the winter clothing for the family. The shoemaker did not forget his vocation, and with his knife, wax, awls, strap, lasts and bench went his rounds, to mend, patch and make up the family shoes and boots. And while the emigrants were engaged in clearing up their lands and providing food and clothing for their families, they were not unmindful that other duties were incumbent on them to perform in aid of civilization and the maintenance of social relations.

Common schools were founded, school districts

formed, log school-houses provided, and school-masters employed during the winter months and school-mistresses during the summer season, to teach the common school branches of education. The parents paid the teachers' wages in proportion to the number of scholars they sent to school. This early attention to common school education by the first settlers of New Berlin has been the direct productive agent in the growth and prosperity of the people.

In the arrangements for the general welfare, religion was not overlooked. Religious meetings were held in school houses, in barns or in dwelling houses, as convenience directed. The ministers were usually supported by contributions, seldom by salaries. Occasionally there might appear one, who, like the apostles of old, preached without money and without price, and his doctrine was considered to be orthodox and sound in the cause of Christianity. Missionaries sometimes found their way into the infant settlements and at such times large gatherings from every quarter of the neighborhood came forth to hear the glad tidings of the gospel preached, and with a sincerity and honesty of purpose, equal to the well dressed congregations of the present time.

IV.

A decorative initial letter 'S' enclosed in an ornate, symmetrical frame with scrollwork and floral motifs.

SAMUEL ANDERSON and Silas Burlingame were the first settlers on Lots 76 and 77, being the two lots which are now the village of New Berlin. Samuel Anderson came up from the old Bay State and made his settlement the latter part of the eighteenth century and erected his dwelling on the north bank of the creek running through the village and between the creek and where now stands S. L. Morgan's store.* Mr. Anderson was active and industrious, possessed good abilities, and was appointed a justice of the peace under the old Council of Appointment. He sold some of his land for building lots, and other parts of it for agricultural purposes until all was sold and he went to live among his children. By trade he was a carpenter. His wife died several years before the family left the old house to strangers.

Silas Burlingame immigrated from Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and came on to lot 77 about the same time Anderson came on to the other lot. He built his dwelling house some rods east of the south village street and southeast of the

*Site now occupied by Dakin's opera house.

Bank. He had several children, some of whom settled near him. Josiah Burlingame, his eldest son, built his house near where the old factory store now stands.* His barn yet remains as one of the old landmarks of former times.

Josiah taught the first school in New Berlin. Another son, Daniel, was a preacher of the gospel, and he built his dwelling house on the village east street near the river bridge. Joel Burlingame was born in that house and he was the father of Anson Burlingame, who will claim particular attention, not only as a prominent member of the Burlingame family, but for his pre-eminent public life. Joel, his father, emigrated to Oregon, and was a delegate to the convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for the office of President of the United States. At that time he revisited the place of his nativity and gave to the writer of this article much information relating to his son Anson, and his younger days.

Anson Burlingame, whose native place New Berlin claims to be, received in his youth a common school education, under old-fashioned schoolmasters in old-fashioned times when pure English language in its true proper idiom was considered an important branch in a young man's education.

*Which was located directly in front of the Tinkham house, at the corner of Moss street and Prentice avenue.

He was faithful and diligent in acquiring a thorough knowledge of the art of speaking his own language with propriety and effect. As he advanced in years he made the science of government and the social relations of nations with each other his peculiar study. He was elected a member of Congress from the city of Boston, where he had resided some years, and was a member of Congress, when the disgraceful attack was made by Congressman Brooks upon Charles Sumner.


On that occasion Anson Burlingame, in language strong, earnest and energetic, exposed the brutal conduct and cowardice of Preston Brooks to the indignant scorn and contempt of the public. For this public arraignment of Congressman Brooks for his misdeeds, he is sensitively affected. His southern courage has been called in question, his honor tarnished. Blood must wipe out the stain. The code of chivalry must be enforced. A challenge is promptly given and accepted. But Bob Acres' courage oozes out, he withdraws his challenge and remains a stigmatized coward the rest of his life, shunned by all good citizens for his dastard and treacherous assailment of his defenceless victim.

Mr. Burlingame attained a high position in the estimation of the public for his manly defence of his fellow-townsmen and intimate friend, and for

his stern and inflexible integrity in the discharge of his duty while a member of congress.

President Lincoln appointed him on a mission to the Chinese government. In this new employment he broke through all the barriers which for ages had prevented any national intercourse between the Chinese people with the outer world. He induced the Chinese government to enter into a treaty with the United States, a condescension never before yielded to any nation. And so skillfully and prudently did Mr. Burlingame proceed in his negotiations that the pride and pomp and circumstance of this oriental nation was quieted, and gave way to the reasoning powers of the plain American statesman. Their grave men listened and became convinced of the advantage of entering into a treaty of commercial intercourse with the western nations, and the Chinese government took Mr. Burlingame into their councils, and appointed him plenipotentiary to negotiate treaties of commerce with all other nations. But in the midst of this extraordinary and arduous undertaking, he fell a victim to the rigor of a Russian winter. This brief reference to Hon. Anson Burlingame belongs to and forms a part of the history of his native town, New Berlin.

V.

T is not saying too much to say that Levi Blakeslee, Charles Knap, Joseph Moss and Jeremy Goodrich, were the chief architects and builders of New Berlin's success. Levi Blakeslee left his native state, the land of steady habits and Puritan principles, and came up to York State, to teach the Dutch the English language. He commenced his school-master's calling in a Dutch settlement about twenty miles on the west side of Albany, at a place where Cheeseman kept a store and tavern. Cheeseman discovered in young Blakeslee, qualities more fitting for other pursuits than the one he had chosen, and furnished him with goods to commence the merchant's trade in some new settlement. It was near the end of the eighteenth century that Mr. Blakeslee purchased a building lot of Silas Burlingame, on the corner where now stands the store of E. R. Fuller.* He built a small one-story dwelling house and store under one roof. The place was known by the people of former times as Blakeslee's Corners. He became a successful merchant and was energetic in the management of his business affairs. In the mean time the settlers had made large improvements—

*Site now occupied by the Connell block.

their farms were productive, surplus crops of wheat were raised, and the distant market and impassable roads required a remedy. To provide for the contingency, Mr. Blakeslee entered into a plan of conveying grain to market by water. He built a large kind of boat called an ark, and took a cargo of wheat down the Unadilla and Susquehanna rivers to Baltimore. But it was found that the transportation of grain to market by water was too hazardous and expensive, and the experiment was not renewed, and the farmers were left to draw their wheat by horse power over the hills, a distance of ninety-six miles to the Albany market.

Other branches of industry engaged Mr. Blakeslee. He built a paper mill on the site where the mill of Daniel Harrington, Esq., now stands.* In those days paper was made by hand, with the help of very little machinery. The paper was pressed by a screw press turned with a lever, and dried in the sun or air in an open room on tenter bars. The process from the pulp made from rags to paper ready for use was slow and the work required the labor of many persons. Now, with the newly invented machinery used for making paper, the pulp starts from the tub on its journey to be transformed into paper, traveling on its way over different sets of rollers and at one place over heated air, and when it arrives at the end it is fit

*Burned in November, 1877.

for immediate use. The time required to turn the pulp into finished paper is the work of but few moments, such has been the inventive genius in paper-making since the art was first practiced by Mr. Blakeslee. Mr. B. gave much aid to public improvements in the village. He was one of the principal persons to procure our first village charter, and he aided in obtaining the sixteenth township to be set off from the town of Norwich, and named New Berlin, in honor of Silas Burlingame, one of its first settlers. The act was passed April 3d, 1807. He owned the land where the Episcopal church stands, and the old burying-ground, all of which he donated to the society for the purposes to which it has been applied, besides giving money to help build the first church thereon erected. He had a large family of children, and after they had grown up he moved into one of the western states, and the old homestead passed into the possession of strangers. One only of his children remained in New Berlin, Mrs. Burch, widow of Dr. Burch, deceased, who lives in the house built by her husband, a skillful physician and a worthy member of society. He and his family belonged to the Episcopal church, and gave much assistance to the choir department.

VI.



HARLES KNAP came to New Berlin in the spring of 1801, and commenced the business of tanning leather. The same spring he married Betsey Loomis, a daughter of Thomas Loomis, a soldier of the revolution. He had learned the trade of James Averil, of Cooperstown, as an apprentice. When he commenced the tanning business his means were limited to a few vats, a small building to work in and an old fashioned mill with a large stone wheel propelled by an old horse driven by a boy around a circle, to crush the bark for his little tannery, which by the careful management and industrious habits of Mr. Knap gradually increased in capacity until from small beginnings his tannery became a large and profitable establishment, and enabled him to extend his business into other branches of industry. He built an oil-mill to manufacture flax-seed into oil, erected a woolen factory, and made cloth from sheep's wool, and built the brick store now owned by Capt. J. S. Bradley. In the business of merchandise and manufacturing of woolen cloth, Gen. H. DeForest was a partner with him. Gen. DeForest was a resident of New Berlin, and then owned the premises where S. L. Morgan now

resides.* Mr. Knap was once the president of the Chenango County bank, and his son Tracy S. Knap, was the president of the First National bank of New Berlin, on its organization. Mr. K. and his wife were members of the Episcopal church, and among its main supporters. Some of their children were also members. Mr. Knap was a hard working, industrious man always, prudent and economical, and his wife was a willing and skillful helper in all that pertained to domestic indoor household affairs. They were much esteemed and respected in society.

Joseph Moss was one of the early settlers of New Berlin. For a time he boarded with Josiah Burlingame, and paid his board-bill by cutting the fire-wood, which service was performed mornings and evenings; the intervening time he was engaged in his daily labor of making leather into shape to fit customers. That economy of time in the beginning saved his trade labor earnings and laid the foundation of his after-life success. The young mechanics of modern times, if they would take heed, might profit by such examples. In 1812, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Manufacturing Company was chartered, and Mr. Moss was made agent of the company. In this new capacity he devoted himself with untiring zeal. Under his supervision a dam across the Unadilla river was

*Residence now owned by T. H. Dakin.

made, and a canal from thence to the place of business—a small wooden building, where the manufacture of cotton cloth was commenced. The yarn was spun by water-power machinery, but woven into cloth by hand, as water-power looms were not yet in use. Weavers from near and distant neighborhoods were employed to weave the yarn into cloth. The weavers took the yarn at the factory, carried it to their homes, wove the yarn into cloth, and returned the cloth to the factory. The quantity of yarn was ascertained when taken and the number of yards of cloth was found by measurement when returned, leaving no loop-hole wherein dishonesty might enter to disturb the quiet of fair dealing between the parties. By the strict, prudent, and careful management of the factory interest, the business of making cloth increased to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to enlarge the buildings, accordingly, in 1827, a large stone factory building was erected and water-power looms supplied the place of hand looms. That building caught fire by accident in the same season and was destroyed, and was re-built in 1828, and the business continued under the agency of Mr. Moss, until 1849, when the business agency was terminated. The company business by the prudent and careful management of Mr. Moss and his son Horace Moss, yielded goodly profits to the owners, and the toilers were liberally paid for their


labor. Mr. Moss accumulated a fair compensation and heritage for the faithful performance of the trust. The family mansion built by Mr. Moss is now owned and is the residence of his son Horace Moss and family.*

The factory having passed into the possession of new owners, and being no longer under the control and guidance of its once careful, experienced and capable directors, success was transient and uncertain. With one owner it was a sorry jade and proved a failure—with another a glimmering of success marked its onward course, passing from one owner to another until finally amid the whirl of its wheels and spindles and weaving looms, a little pebble ignited the mass of combustible cotton and the ruins now show where once stood the old cotton manufactory building.

*Now owned by F. T. Arnold.



VII.

A decorative initial letter 'J' enclosed in a square frame with ornate, symmetrical scrollwork and floral patterns on all four sides.

JEREMY GOODRICH came up from the land of steady habits and wooden nutmegs and settled in New Berlin towards the last of the eighteenth century. He was married to Lydia Downing, a daughter of widow Abigail Downing. She at that time lived in a log house on Capt. Samuel White's farm, nearly opposite the old brewery, where it then stood. After their marriage Mr. Goodrich, his wife and Mamma Downing, as she was familiarly called, resided together as one family the remainder of their lives. Mr. Goodrich commenced manufacturing black salts into pot and pearlash. For this purpose he bought the salts from farmers, who, when clearing their lands in burning the log heaps, took the ashes accruing therefrom and leached the ashes and boiled the lye into black salts. In the new settlement of the town, the business of clearing the lands and boiling black salts, as the term was used by back-woodsmen was an important affair, for that was the only product relied on to obtain money to pay for the farms. No other product could be sold for money in those primitive days of the early settlers. Mr. Goodrich's ashery was on the north side of the village creek near the North street bridge, where

he had a long row of potash kettles set in arches to boil salts into potash and ovens to make pearl-ash.

The business was profitable to him and advantageous to the settlers, making a market for their salts. In the spring days might be seen ox-teams with sled loads of salts coming down the mountain paths in every direction and wending their way to Goodrich's ashery, with their loads, and when arrived await their turn to have their salts weighed and receive their money. On such occasions the crowd of business seemed almost equal around the ashery to the cheese and butter business in modern times around the depot. In the one case the money obtained from the sale of the proceeds was applied in payment for farms, in the other in payment for luxuries mostly.

Mr. Goodrich became the owner by purchase of the land where the ashery stood on both sides of the creek, down to the Unadilla river. On the south side of the brook he built a small house, where for a time he sold merchandise and in the progress of business he erected a large wood building fronting the east and north streets. The eastern part was made into a dwelling for the family, and the other part was made into a large store in which he carried on the mercantile business for many years, in connection with his pearlash business. He also kept tavern in that

building for a while. He was postmaster some years. In that home dwelling, Mr. Goodrich, his wife and her mother resided until their decease. Their habits were peculiar, seldom mingling in social intercourse with their neighbors.

Mr. Goodrich, somewhat deficient in common school education, was nevertheless, a correct business man in all his dealings. He had a capacity to determine things rightly, but he was much aided in all his affairs by the assistance of Mrs. Lydia, a term he always applied to his wife, and Mamma Downing, who took an active part in the selling of the goods, etc., and he never made a bargain without first consulting with "Mrs. Lydia and Mamma." It was an old and trite observation that "they were his right hand men."

After the lands became cleared up and the facilities for making potash no longer existed, he closed up the business and built a tannery on the creek near the river. In that business he was successful and made it his principal occupation during the remainder of his life. He also purchased a piece of land on the south side of the east street extending from South street down East street to the Charles Medbury homestead lot. On the corner lot opposite his store, he kept bees in large numbers of hives. That piece of ground is now occupied by a tavern and the hum of the busy bee colony in their daily toil, is changed into

the humdrum discordant sounds of barroom loungers.

Mr. Goodrich died in 1830, at the age of 62 years, leaving a valuable property earned by his industry and the help of his female co-workers, but no child to inherit his estate. Mamma Downing survived him eleven years. She died in 1841 at the age of 93 years. She was born nearly a quarter of a century before the Revolution, and retained the full vigor of her mental faculties to the last period of her existence. The writer of this article wrote her will but a few months before her decease and makes the statement from personal knowledge in regard to her mental faculties. She was a remarkable woman.

The Goodrich estate was made the subject of long, acrimonious litigation after his decease, by the distant relatives of his wife. As in the usual event of such things, lawyers claimed deodands on the dead man's estate and consequently in the final distribution between the legal profession and wranglers, a few thousand dollars only found lodgment with a grand-daughter of Mr. Jeremy Goodrich's wife. Thus ended the Goodrich property. A few years after his decease his tannery caught fire and was consumed, but has never been rebuilt.

No relation now owns any part of his estate which he died seized of. On the bank of the

creek where his ashery business was carried on, now stands two sumptuous, enticing buildings. Within are large, magnificent and splendid rooms furnished with tables covered with rich green baize cloth. On the tables are a number of round balls of different colors and long slender poles, and around these tables may be seen young men, youth and middle-aged men, day after day, and night after night, toiling with anxious faces, pushing with those long poles, the balls around on the table, gradually melting away the patrimony their ancestors acquired by honest labor. The store part of the Goodrich building has been taken down and the place remains vacant,* except a small round music building erected on the corner. The Goodrich dwelling for the family remains and is now owned and occupied by Lewis Brown, a son of the late Judge Barnabas Brown, one of the oldest settlers, and who will be noticed more particularly in a subsequent article,

*Site now occupied by the Sprague block.

VIII.



ARTEMAS HERRICK, with some kinsmen and families moved up country and settled on lot 74 in New Berlin while the town was a wilderness, except here and there a bit of clearing and a log house where the smoke in curling circles arising above the forest tree-tops showed the advance of civilization into the western wilds and the places where it was being commenced. Marked trees exhibited the line of communication and forest paths the common road for wayside travelers. Gideon Peck and his wife were an aged couple when they left their native home in Connecticut to make their abode in a new country log cabin, but they lived to see large improved farms take the place of the wild woods, their own log-cabin changed into a comfortable framed dwelling-house, and grandchildren growing up around them, and that they were ending their days in a thickly settled neighborhood. They were respected for their kindness and hospitality. The ten acre lot which Mr. Peck owned is the same lot that Mr. Porter now owns, and the log house stood on the hill to the west side of the road and the framed dwelling-house in which they lived afterwards, stood at the foot of

the hill on the east side of the road. Both buildings have long since been torn down and removed.

Mr. Artemas Herrick was an enterprising, energetic pioneer in the new settlement. He erected a dam across the Unadilla river adjoining his farm and built a gristmill and sawmill, two things much needed. They were the first mills built on the Unadilla river, with the exception of Job Vail's mill, which dates about the same time. It was a great benefit to the inhabitants when the mills were completed and commenced business. It relieved them of the burden of traveling to a distant mill to have their grain ground, or the more tedious process of pounding it in a mortar, which necessity sometimes required the first settlers to do.

The Herrick farm and the Herrick mills, also the Herrick brook, once a fine trout stream, which ran through the farm, were familiar names to the ancient inhabitants, but do not dwell in the memory of the present generation. After the farm was sold to pay debts which Mr. Herrick had incurred in building the mills and making other improvements, which he was unable to pay, and he had gone to other lands, the brook was called Aunt Pat brook, the pet name of a celebrated ancient landlady whose husband kept a tavern a few rods over the line in another town, which name it retains to the present day, although the landlord, the landlady and the tavern itself have

long ago ceased to exist, and the mills passing to other hands are now known as the Red Mills and owned by Mr. Low, who changed the grist mill into a cheese-box factory, but now it stands there idle, unused and a wreck of its former usefulness. The scenery around the old Red Mills is romantic. Far up the valley may be seen the river winding its way through cultivated meadows and pasture lands on each side until for a while its course is staid by an artificial dam built for the use of the mills, then regaining its current and tumbling over the obstruction, making a beautiful cascade among the surrounding shrubbery. The river rolls up against the rock-bound mountain on the east side or bank, and then turns down the valley to be lost in the distance. Near where the course of the river is arrested by the mountain rocks is suspended a bridge, the eastern end resting on the rocks. One of the first bridges built across the Unadilla was erected at the place where the present bridge stands. Not many years ago a man and his wife were proceeding across the bridge in a wagon when an accident happened and they were separated forever.

What caused it remains a mystery. Whether the mountain goblin spirits were holding their nightly revels around the place and barred the passage, or some unseen power controlled her destiny, is to mortal ken unknown; the old horse

turned and made a backward movement. The husband rushed from the impending danger, and ignoble left his wife, who, for an instant hung suspended, then dropped into the floating waters, that closed around her and the sum of human life was extinguished. Her body was afterwards found among some floodwood about 100 rods below where the catastrophe happened. The man, horse and wagon were saved.

Mr. Herrick's wife was the daughter of Gideon Peck, of whom mention has been made. Mr. Herrick sold to Enos Kimball the farm now owned by Mr. Hollis Ward. Mr. Kimball was one of the early settlers and a good, respectable farmer. He was a saving, prudent man, and his little farm was productive. His income enabled him to loan little sums of money about the neighborhood, at 14 per cent. in the hard times succeeding the war of 1812, and his visits with his pasteboard revolving interest table under his arms, going along the village streets indicated that he was on his semi-annual collection tour, after his interest crop. But he was not overbearing to the debtor. In those times money was not as easily obtained as in these piping times of inflation. Mr. Kimball ended his days with his son-in-law, William D. Knap, in New Berlin village.


Mr. Lord, another early settler, purchased of

Mr. Herrick the place afterwards owned by James Eaton, and is part of lot 74. Mr. Lord was a hatter. He built his-dwelling house on the knoll. It was a large two-story building and made a fine appearance. He and his wife were a sociable, pleasant couple; they came from Barnhill, in old Norwich town, in Connecticut, where it was the invariable custom to heat the oven and bake a kettle of beans and loaves of rye and Indian bread on Saturday, preparatory to the Sabbath rest. This bake bean custom Mr. Lord brought with him and adhered to it always. He and his family are no longer known to this generation, having long since passed away.

Mr. Sabin Warner, another settler on a part of lot 74, was a thrifty farmer, and brought green peas to an early market. His wife is yet living on the farm with one of her sons, who now manages it. All the first settlers on Mr. Herrick's lot, 74, have now been metioned except Mr. Richard Stoneman.



IX.



RICHARD STONEMAN, a stranger from the city of London or its neighborhood, arrived in New Berlin about the commencement of the present century, in search of a new home and finally in the course of his wanderings, purchased a few acres of land of Artemas Herrick, on the northwest corner of his lot 74 and made to himself a dwelling-place in that secluded nook, where he lived a retired life the rest of his days, seeking but little intercourse with society.

He possessed intellectual accomplishments of a superior order, and it was supposed that in his native land he had occupied a higher station in old England's aristocratic society than is to be found among our New England Yankee equality folks. His wife was an amiable woman and the family were highly esteemed.

After the decease of Mr. Stoneman, his wife successfully managed the domestic affairs, and trained up the children, who became useful members of society. One daughter married Asa Pope, then a resident of the village. He owned the premises where Mr. Phelps lives* on North street,

*Site now occupied by the residence of F. N. Moulton.

and built the dwelling-house thereon. Mrs. Pope was much esteemed for her social and amiable qualities. Some years after her decease Mr. Pope sold the premises and went to Sherburne where he lived the rest of his life.

The Stoneman boys, while yet young men, emigrated into the western states, and the grandson of Mr. Stoneman, George Stoneman, Junior, became a student in the military school at West Point, where he graduated and continued in the United States service. When the rebellion broke out he was promoted to the office of General of cavalry, in which capacity he made successful raids through the rebel country with his squadrons, and did good service to his country, and taught southern traitors that northern valor was superior to southern pride and arrogance. At the close of the war he was put upon the retired list, and went to lower California, and is engaged in agriculture.

John Simmons and Stephen G. Simmons were brothers, and their native place was the city of New York. Their father was a wealthy citizen, and the owner of the several lots in New Berlin and Columbus known as the Simmons lots among the early settlers of those towns.

John Simmons, in the beginning of the first settlement of New Berlin, came up from the city and settled on his father's lot 75, adjoining the

Anderson lot on the north, and his brother, Stephen G., about the same time, settled on his father's lot 78, adjoining the Burlingame lot on the south.

Mr. John Simmons, and his brother Stephen, found that a city education was not adapted to the agricultural pursuits of backwoodsmen, however, they were both robust, strong young men, floundered along, clearing up their farms and raising crops as best they might. Mr. John Simmons, after making some improvements, sold his farm to Mr. Thomas Steere, a Rhode Island farmer, who emigrated from that state with his brother-in-law Charles Harris, who purchased the north part of said Simmons lot, and Steere the south part, except a piece of land on the east end of said lot adjoining the river, which Simmons had previously sold, to Levi Blakeslee, and also a piece on the west end of the lot which Simmons had sold to Jeremiah Goodrich. Mr. Steere and Mr. Harris were practical farmers, and brought the Simmons farm into a good state of cultivation.


Mr. Harris, a few years before his death, fell a considerable distance on to his barn floor from a hay-loft and received a lasting injury to his spine, which rendered him a cripple, confined to his bed the remainder of his life. In his case, the old maxim, necessity is the mother of invention, re-

ceived a practical illustration. While lying in this monotony and helpless condition, he learned and practiced the art of making hair fish-lines, for which he found a ready and profitable market, for in those days, our woodland streams were well stored with speckled trout, and the river with pickerel, and fish-lines were in good demand.

Mr. Harris left his farm to his wife, who, some time after her husband's death, sold it to Welcome Arnold, now a citizen of this village. Thomas Steere left his farm to his children on his decease, and after passing through the occupancy of seven owners, it is now owned by Warren Reynolds, a son-in-law of Welcome Arnold, who has lately erected a large, commodious, and splendid dwelling-house, on the old dwelling-house grounds, superior no doubt, to the mansion owned by the Simmons family, in the city of New York, when the son John left his father's house to become a resident on the Simmons lot in New Berlin.

Such has been the change of time within the memory of old people. Stephen G. Simmons sold his farm and moved west many years ago. It is now owned by Mr. A. J. Barney, a respectable farmer. No member of the Simmons family now remains in New Berlin, and the Simmons property, both in New Berlin and Columbus, has long since passed out of the family.

X.



ABOUT the year 1797, Thomas Brown, with his family and household goods, journeyed up from Rhode Island, the land of his nativity, unto the land of New Berlin, and if it were not "a land of promise, flowing with milk and honey," yet it abounded in the amplitude of wild forest game, and hillside streams filled with trout to supply the settlers with food.

One or two years previous James and Barnabas, his sons, had been sent up to explore the new country, and prepare a dwelling-place for the family. They came with an ox-team, bringing some necessary articles for the occasion, and fixed the future home of the family on a lot situated on the Great Brook, and commenced clearing a place among the forest trees to build a log dwelling-house and whilst engaged in this new work, they made a brushwood bower to sleep in, and for a canopy to protect them from the storms of rain and snow, whilst resting from their daily labor, the boards which formed the sled box of the expedition were taken to make the covering roof. These boards were afterwards made into a coffin for a Mrs. Edwards, being the only material which

could be procured for such purpose at the time, and Mr. Barnabas Brown, with a few tools brought with him, made the boards into the proper shape, and the rites of sepulture on that occasion, and for the first time in New Berlin's infant settlement, were performed with as much heart-felt mourning and sincerity of purpose as attend the extravagant and costly ceremonial services of the burial of the dead in modern times.

Mr. Thomas Brown died about the year 1814; his son James Brown inherited the homestead estate and on his death it descended to his heirs, where the title yet remains, and the place is now occupied by Agrippa Butts as tenant.


Barnabas Brown, in the course of events, went out from his father's house and took to himself a wife. He married a daughter of Nathaniel Medbury, and settled on the lot next to Samuel Anderson's lot on the west. He commenced housekeeping in a new log house which he had erected for that purpose near where the old orchard is, on the north side of the road, running east and west through the farm.

That orchard was among his first works after he commenced clearing up his farm. The old log house has long since disappeared, but the orchard remains, a monument of labor done in youth's by-gone days. A few years employed in clearing

up his farm, and he was enabled to build a more, commodious dwelling-house, where yet may be seen the now old red painted one story, steep roof building which was the residence of Judge Barnabas Brown, amidst his happy family of sons and daughters, through a long and useful life spent in private and public employment.

In the days of the Council of Appointment, Barnabas Brown received a commission as Justice of the Peace for the town of New Berlin, and acted in that capacity several years to the terror of evil-doers and the satisfaction of the orderly inhabitants. Esquire Brown was elected and performed the duties of Supervisor for many years in succession, in which office he has always been reputed, even down to the present day, the best supervisor the town has ever had. He also held the office of a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, for Chenango county, in the Clintonian time of State politics. Judge Barnabas Brown was a much respected member of society, and like the Patriarch Abraham, "died in good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people." And on his tomb may be written the epitaph: "Here lies an honest man, the noblest work of God."

XI.



THE Arnolds and Medburys came up from Rhode Island and founded settlements for their families in the midst of woods, before civilization had made much advance on the west side of the river Unadilla. Nathaniel Medbury was their chief and principal leader. He was reputed to be a man of superior abilities among the class of first settlers, and took an active part in the public affairs of the infant settlement. He purchased the wild lot next adjoining, south of the Thomas Brown farm on the Great Brook, and with the help of his son, Hezekiah, a stalwart grown-up young man, soon transformed the wild woods into well cultivated fields, and made to himself and family, a pleasant home on that beautiful trout stream, where, in after years, the trout-fishing disciples of Isaac Walton, on fine spring days, found rural amusement to be enjoyed, equal, if not superior to any described by old Isaac himself.

The popularity of Mr. Nathaniel Medbury procured his nomination as a candidate to the office of a member of the State Legislature in the Democratic convention and the ascendancy of that party over the Federal or opposite party at that time secured his election. But before he had an

opportunity to put in practice his qualifications as a legislator, his public career was suddenly ended. An epidemic, virulent and beyond the control of physicians, entered the hall of the Legislature and Nathaniel Medbury ceased to exist. His remains were brought home and interred in the cemetery on James Brown's farm. And the hopes, the honors and the expectations of the young legislator were extinguished forever, and the family and friends left to mourn his untimely fate. His son Hezekiah remained on the farm many years after his father's death, and occupied the position of a good and influential citizen, taking an active part in public affairs, but never held any public office in the town. Finally he sold the old homestead farm and moved down to the town of Bainbridge, where he died a few years ago.

Benjamin Medbury, a relative of Hon. Nathaniel Medbury, and co-emigrant with him, settled on the next lot south of Nathaniel Medbury's lot. He became a thrifty, industrious farmer, made large improvements on his farm and also engaged in buying cattle for the Philadelphia and other markets, whereby the inhabitants obtained money to make payments for their lands. He became generally known as an enterprising cattle drover, if not to his own profit, the inhabitants who had cattle to dispose of realized the advantage of sell-

ing their cattle for money, which otherwise they could not have obtained. He died several years ago, leaving a wife and several children. The old farm is now owned by Mr. Lysander Parker, who has a large dairy, which he makes the chief business of the farm.

Joseph Medbury, a brother of Benjamin, settled on a lot a short distance north from the James Brown premises, where he remained until his death. He was a good farmer, and held the office of a justice of the peace several years. He was respected as a kind and obliging neighbor. He left a large family of children, none of whom are now living.

Stephen Medbury, another brother, settled on a lot on the hill west of the village. He was a good, enterprising farmer and turned his wild lot into an excellent farm by his industry and the help of his sons. He also carried on the trade of a cooper with his farming business. He was esteemed as a man of probity and good judgment, and was several terms one of the town assessors, and gave general satisfaction for his correct and impartial assessments. At his decease he left his valuable farm to his children.

Jabez Arnold settled on a lot west of the village, which he made into a valuable farm. He sustained the character of an industrious, prudent and eco-

nomical farmer. He had a large family of sons and daughters, who occupied distinguished places among New Berlin's inhabitants.

His farm is now occupied by his children's children. The Medburys, Browns and Arnolds were intimately connected by intermarriage and were a numerous class among the settlers of New Berlin.

Our anxiety to unravel the tangled skein woven into the Presidential web, caused an error in the final disposal of the Joseph Medbury family sketch, which we proceed to correct. It should be: He left no children who are now living in New Berlin, and the old homestead is in the possession of other owners, but two of his sons are yet among the toilers of the earth. His son Joseph Medbury, a gun-smith in his young days, went to Rochester, made his trade profitable and accumulated wealth and prosperity, and enjoys the character of a respected and influential citizen, in the city of his adoption. Another son, Sylvester, in early life, wended his way from his ancestral home into Columbus, Ohio, where fortune smiled and bade him welcome and partake of her bounties, which he now enjoys.

XII.



ARNET and Caleb Hill, brothers, and Michael Phillips were first settlers on the wild lands lying between the Silas Burlingame lot 77, now part of our village site, and the Jabez Arnold lot. Caleb Hill died leaving his farm to his children, and from them it is passed away. The Michael Phillips farm is now owned by Darius Atherton, now one of the assessors of New Berlin. The Barnett Hill farm is yet in the ownership of his descendants. Mr. Barnett Hill was a prudent, industrious farmer, and was several terms one of the overseers of the poor. He performed the duty with caution and humanity.

Reeve and John Dilley were brothers, and settled on a wild lot next west of the Simmons lots, west of the Great Brook. Reeve was by trade a carpenter, and after making some clearings on his lot, he occasionally continued to work at his trade among the more thrifty farmers, changing their old family log houses into good substantial framed dwelling abodes. John kept a tavern many years, after the country round about became sufficiently settled to warrant the establishment of such a luxury to the traveling community, and an accommo-

dation for town meetings and sometimes elections.

Asa Williams settled on a wild lot some little distance from the Dilleys towards Norwich. He was a frugal and industrious farmer, and was some time a justice of the peace in the days of Federal party supremacy, over the Democratic party, he being a somewhat distinguished Federal politician, and likewise otherwise qualified for the office. He received his appointment from the Council of Appointment, and officiated to the satisfaction of all reasonable litigants, for his decisions were impartial to unreasonable litigants. The old adage might apply:

"Ne'er he who feels the halter draw,
Has a good opinion of the law."

Nehemiah Leach settled on a wild woodside hill lot beyond Asa Williams' location, which was known in after years as the Leach hill. He was an enterprising business farmer. Simeon Odle was an early settler on a wild lot in the neighborhood somewhat south of the Leach hill. He was a good farmer and one of our active town officers in the early days of town affairs.

William Mayhew and his brother, John Mayhew, settled on a lot near one of the Simmons lots on the Great Brook, and cleared up their farms and left them to their heirs.

Isaac Sherman settled on the brook running into the Great Brook west of the Mayhews, and built a

sawmill on his farm which was a valuable affair to the early settlers. It was among the first saw mills erected in the town, and furnished much valuable pine lumber. His descendants are yet in possession of the farm.

Isaac and Abner Burlingame, brothers, settled on a lot next north of one of the Simmons lots on the Great Brook. They were thrifty farmers.



XIII.



NATURE, in the fullness and plentitude of her creative power, fashioned a magnificent reservoir of spring water far up the mountain ridge, between the Unadilla and Chenango rivers. This pretty miniature lake, in the legends of the native Indians bore the name of "The Sleeping Fawn Waters." It was a vast basin three or four miles in circumference and continually supplied with water flowing up from fountains beneath the interior, and surrounded by lofty pines, sturdy oaks, intermingling with forest trees of lesser growth, and wild-flower-covered banks, it presented a splendid, brilliant and unrivaled scene of nature's handiwork. A spectator, standing on the rocky eminence, in his mind's eye, might fancy the far-off objects floating on the curling waves to be veritable wood-nymphs, that Indian tradition held, were in morning mists or evening shades seen bathing and sporting on the blue waters, when on closer inspection, the illusion is dispelled, the etherial beings are only dun deer and their young fawns swimming across from one projecting point to another, in search of food, or perchance, bathing their heated bodies in the cool-

ing flood, or fleeing from pursuing hounds or wolves.

This primitive woodland scenery, well worth the poet's pen or artist's pencil, no longer exists. The picture is blotted, defaced, and its primeval beauty destroyed by the rude, indiscriminating hand of the innovator. The woodman's axe has felled the lofty pines, the sturdy oaks, and all the lesser trees of note that once encircled and made beautiful this inland sheet of water, and the wild flowers are withered, and no longer bloom on the banks. The Indian name is extinct and no longer remembered, and the modernized name of Mathewson's pond* is the substitute.

This Noah Mathewson, a strong, robust Rhode Islander, a native of a small hamlet on the western coast of the Atlantic ocean, emigrated into the 16th township, among the first settlers and built his log cabin on the high land near the pond which bears his name, and commenced clearing up his farm upon the economical principles of Yankee enterprise, which soon enabled him to change his humble log cabin into a commodious, one-story framed dwelling-house, it being one of the first framed buildings erected in the town, and there it yet stands, and is now one of the oldest buildings in the town. He, with his family, lived

*Now known as Chenango Lake.

through a long and laborious life of usefulness in that dwelling-house. The premises are now occupied by strangers.

Mr. Mathewson was a good farmer and brought his farm to a good state of cultivation. He also united the trade of a carpenter, with the mechanical knowledge of mill-wright to his occupation of a farmer, and as a millwright, he was one of the principal workers and of much benefit to the people in the new settlement. Many of his mechanical works yet survive him. His son Noah resides on a farm near the old pond and is a successful farmer.


Stephen Skinner, in the early times of the first settlers, located his habitation on the same high-land ridge some miles north of Mathewson's farm and near the north line of the town. The place is known as Skinner hill. He had a large family of children who settled in after grown-up life round about him. He was a thrifty farmer, a reputable citizen, and belonged to the Episcopal church, of which he was one of the supporters on its first establishment in New Berlin, soon after the beginning of the present century.

Stephen and Nathaniel Kinney were first settlers in the neighborhood of Mr. Skinner, and made to themselves valuable farms. William Robinson also was one of the first settlers in the same neigh-

borhood. He was a genial, pleasant neighbor, and left a good property to his children. Mr. Ezra Huntly was also an early settler in the same neighborhood, a good farmer and industrious. He built for his family residence a nice commodious stone dwelling-house.



XIV.



THOMAS SARLE, a native of Rhode Island, settled on a river lot a short distance below the Scribner tavern. This lot was heavily timbered and presented a formidable undertaking for a new beginner in chopping and logging, and clearing up business preparatory to raising crops. But he was strong, resolute and persevering, and lived to enjoy the fruits of his industry, and the gratification of owning one of the most valuable farms in the town as a reward for his honest labor and frugality. He lived to a good old age and left his property to his two sons, Elisha and Thomas. The south part of the farm which he gave to Elisha, is now owned by A. J. Sage, and the north part, which he gave to his son Thomas, remains in the family, and is owned by his grandson, a son of Thomas, Jordan Sarle, who is one of the best farmers in all the town. Order, neatness and regularity is a rule not to be violated in his farming business.

Asa Angell settled on the lot next below the Sarle farm. He came from Rhode Island, moving his young family on an ox sled, was about four weeks on the road, arrived at the place of his future

home some time in the month of June, and his wife had had her seat in the chair, (presented to her by her mother as a wedding gift on the day of her marriage) during the long, tedious journey up country, and the same chair, afterwards used by her to rock her children during their infancy, is now in a good state of preservation, and remains as an heir-loom in the Angell family when they assemble at the old Angell residence to celebrate the centennial of the day that their ancestors came to the farm.

Mr. Angell was a good neighbor and an exemplary member of society. He also worked at the trade of a cooper, as well as that of farming, and left a valuable property to the inheritance of his heirs. The old farm is now owned and occupied by one of his sons.

William, Pliny and Joseph Phelps, brothers, settled on river lands adjoining to each other, and some little distance below the Doc. Foote farm. By their industry, economy and frugality they acquired to themselves valuable farms, and in common parlance were considered forehanded farmers. Mr. William Phelps, as he advanced in years, fancied it his duty to go out among the people and preach the gospel and in accordance with that belief, he occasionally went forth on his self-imposed mission; whether the seed fell on

stony ground or otherwise, is left to conjecture. He has long since delivered up the stewardship of earthly labors. The peace and quiet of his declining years was disturbed by a litigious contention forced upon him by his daughter, to whom he had already bestowed much of his possessions, and of her it might be said, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child."

Mr. Pliny Phelps, having no children to support, and having a prudent wife to manage the household affairs, the surplus produce of his farm enabled him to accumulate money which he loaned out at 14 per cent. interest to his less fortunate neighbors. He died at a good old age, leaving his property to his relatives, who, perhaps, enjoyed the using of it as much as Mr. Phelps did in gathering it together.

Mr. Joseph Phelps was a good farmer, a sociable, pleasant neighbor, and took great interest in the town business, in which he was a careful manager. He was usually chosen moderator at town meetings and presided with grave dignity and preserved good order on such occasions. The town officers were separately elected by ballot, except overseers of highways, who were chosen by the uplifted hand. On town meeting day, business was commenced by the strong, loud voice of Mr. Phelps as moderator proclaiming:

"The town meeting is now opened, bring forth your votes for Supervisor." After a suitable time had elapsed for voting, as determined by the presiding board of town officers, there might again be heard the strong voice, saying, "The ballot box for Supervisor is now closed, prepare your vote for town clerk." The board then proceeded to count the votes for Supervisor, and on ascertaining who was elected, again the stentorian voice was heard, "You have elected Barnabas Brown your Supervisor for the ensuing year; the poll is now opened for Town Clerk, bring on your votes." And in that orderly manner was the business of choosing town officers proceeded in until all the town officers were elected, which was generally accomplished by the middle of the afternoon, winding up with good feeling and hilarity. In those simple days of honest industry before politics had a being, town officers were selected for their fitness for the office and the candidate was never known to ask his neighbor to vote for him. Town business was transacted with strict economy, and no man sought office for its emoluments.

XV.



JOSEPH VAIL, a pioneer in the first settlement in the valley of the Unadilla river, took possession of a lot near the Asa Angell farm and commenced the up-country work of clearing, and building a log house to live in with his wife and children. Rumor, with her thousand tongues proclaimed that during the war of the Revolution, he was a believer in the doctrine that the king could do no wrong, and was not finally convinced of his mistake until the king was compelled to acknowledge the independence of the thirteen old United Colonies. Whatever might have been his opinion, during the stormy period of the war struggle, he commenced the work of improvement in the new settlement with the energy and enterprise of a faithful and diligent citizen.

After he had provided a place for his family his next undertaking was to build a mill to grind grain, and another mill to saw logs into boards, two conveniences greatly needed in the new settlement, and these two mills were the first mills built in the town, with the exception of Herrick's mills which were built about the same time. His mills were made profitable to himself and benefic-

cial to his customers, who were enabled to make more commodious dwellings for their families, and places to thresh out their grain, and a mill to grind it, of which they had been destitute until the enterprising labor of Mr. Vail furnished the means. He lived to an old age, and left a valuable property to his children; the descendants of one of them are yet in the ownership of part of the farm. The mills and the residue are owned by Mr. Skinner.

His son, Frederick Vail, married a daughter of James Smith, who was one of Tarleton's soldiers, at the battle of Cowpens, and was taken prisoner by Morgan's squadron and brought north and finally became a citizen of New Berlin.

Nathan Taylor owned the lot whereon is now South New Berlin village. He was an honest, industrious and respectable farmer, and took an active part in the management of town business. He held town office from time to time, was a Justice of the Peace under the old Council of Appointment and sometime a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, also a member of assembly to revise the laws, and it may be declared that he faithfully and honestly discharged his duty in the several offices entrusted to him and sustained the character of a good citizen. He left a goodly heritage to be enjoyed by his children.

Mathew Calkins owned a farm a short distance below Judge Taylor's farm on the river. The

Calkins farm is one of the most pleasant and beautiful locations on the river, and in value has no superior of the same number of acres. Mr. Calkins understood the art of surveying and in the early settlement of the town, spent much of his time in surveying the different lots in the town, which enabled him to become acquainted with their particular value, and make his choice understandingly. His selection warranted the goodness of his judgment. He was influential and active in town business, and held the office of Justice of the Peace, by commission from the Council of Appointment of olden times. He was a member of the Methodist church. A Methodist camp-meeting was sometimes held in his sugar maple orchard grove, a beautiful place for such meetings. And of an evening when all nature seemed hushed in silence, the gentle breeze scarce ruffled the green leaves on the overhanging tree-tops, and lights innumerable shining bright from lamps suspended from sides of trees, made visible all the vast multitude within the encampment listening to the words of the speaker, standing on a high raised platform, or to the vocal sounds of praise resounding in harmonious cadence all around, and echoing throughout the woods, presenting a scene from which no one could withdraw without being convinced of the reality of religion, and the sincerity of its worshippers, whether in the field or in the temple.

XVI.



JOHN AMBLER, in the early time of New Berlin settlement, took up his residence on the Great Brook at the place now called "Ambler Settlement," an appellation given to the little hamlet because Mr. Ambler was its principal founder and was a man of considerable energy and enterprise in matters pertaining to the organization of new up-country society, the establishment of good order, the establishment of religious institutions and for the intellectual instruction of young urchins, and in all things tending to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants, he was an active member of the community. The Presbyterian church in that place, was the first one built in town, was built under his auspices and chiefly by his individual exertions. He was a prominent member of that church.

Charles Rich was early a settler on a farm adjoining the Ambler Settlement. He was a good farmer, a prominent man in town affairs, sometimes a justice of the peace, held other town offices, and among all his good qualities, he was a good neighbor, and a good member of society. He left a good property to his heirs, earned by his honest, economical labor.

Jonathan Mathewson settled on a farm near the

Ambler Settlement, and was an extensive business man. Besides farming, he entered largely into lumbering business, erected a sawmill and sawed his own boards and timber from his own pine tree lot. He left valuable property to his heirs.

Daniel Sage established his up-country home in a log cabin in the woods on the Great Brook, above the Ambler Settlement. He was a farmer and peculiarly qualified to endure the difficulties, privations and hardships of a backwoodsman, and was a plain, unpretending cultivator of the land. Like the patriarchs of old, he made the sacred cause of religion and public worship on the Sabbath day an indispensable duty, and the outward rite of personally attending Elder Eastwood's Methodist meetings, he being a member, a thing not to be neglected. The summer's rains, nor winter's snow quenched his zeal. He was always a regular attendant at those Sabbath day meetings. His faith in Divine Providence proved, however on trial, not to have been equal to the faith of the Father of the Hebrew nation, when commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. The place where Elder Eastwood held his meetings was a few miles down the river through thick woods, from Mr. Sage's abode, and a marked tree wood-path the line of communication. On a winter Sabbath day Mr. Sage, in pursuance to his accustomed practice, was proceeding on the snow path. When in midway, on the beat-

en track before him, a huge, ferocious bear and her cubs obstructed the passage. Standing on her hind legs, with body erect and teeth grating and paws ready to strike, she presented a formidable barricade for an unarmed Christian to encounter. On either side the deep snow prevented going around. No alternative but a combat with the grim, savage beast, and abide the result, or return home. He turned back, and the sin of neglect to attend public worship on that Sabbath was fixed upon the unconscious brute.



XVII.



THE manners, customs, and habits of the pioneer farmers who settled in the wilds of New Berlin were in accordance with a community making their homes on the confines of civilization, and every individual family dependent on their own resources, expedients and perseverance for success. The men and women toiled, and worked, and good improved farms were the reward for their labor.

Hospitality made pleasant their log cabin firesides to the strange sojourner and the neighbor. Reading meetings on Sundays, were held at some convenient place and a sermon from some printed volume of ancient sermons was read, Psalms in old fashioned ways and tunes were sung, and prayers were offered up in the sincerity of the Christians' faith.

Instruction in the elemental principles of common school education was provided without the legislative aid of a school code examination to ascertain a teacher's qualifications.

If the teacher understood the art of reading, writing and simple rules of arithmetic he was considered capable of teaching the farmer's children of that generation, how to read, write, and speak

the English language with propriety, and to instruct the youth in figures sufficiently to enable them to add, subtract, multiply and divide correctly enough to keep fair and honest estimates in their dealings and transactions. Webster's spelling book, a book of reading lessons, the New Testament, Root's Arithmetic and Dwight's Geography, comprised the school children's books of instruction and with the addition of a Bible, a complete family library of that period. No post office was within one or two days' journey of the settlement and newspapers and periodicals were not.

But, however, in after years when the forest paths became somewhat passable, a postman on horseback with old fashioned saddlebags stuffed on one side with newspapers, on the other side laden with his luncheon, appeared among the subscribers, from a far off distant printing-office. His tin horn re-echoing among the forest trees announcing his approach was a more charming sound to the expectant ear than the family dinner-horn to call the laborer from the field to his noon-day meal.

Next came tradesmen, manufacturers and mechanics with merchandise and tools and settled in and about the village. Captain Samuel Munroe was a worker in iron, erected his shop on the south side of the East street and commenced the trade

of a blacksmith about the beginning of the present century. His shop and house stood on the premises now owned by Mrs. Chapin, the widow of Benajah Chapin, deceased.* He was a middle aged man when he came to New Berlin with his wife and children. At his death he left his homestead property to Linus W. Munroe, his son, who carried on the business of chain-making and some other branches of work in wood. He was a good and faithful mechanic to his employers. His wife was General Welch's sister. He obtained the rank of Captain in the militia service and made a good officer to train and drill soldiers on the peace establishment according to Steuben's military drill book. He died leaving his estate to distant relatives, having no children to inherit.

Jacob Brewer, another blacksmith, settled on the opposite side of the street. The old blacksmith shop is still standing, a wreck of its former usefulness.† Mr. Brewer obtained the rank of Colonel from a regular promotion through the grades from a soldier up and made a good appearance on horseback at the head of his regiment of militia soldiers, for he was a portly man. He moved over into the town of Pittsfield, and from there he went into

*The site is now occupied by the residence of H. L. Lottridge.

†No longer true, as the site is now occupied by the residence of L. C. Todd.

what was called the Broken Stream country, towards Lake Ontario.

John Pike, also a blacksmith, purchased the old shop and carried on the blacksmith business several years. He also married a sister of Gen. Welch. After his wife died he sold his house and shop and afterwards married Widow Harris, who owned the house and blacksmith shop built by Orsamus Clark, deceased, on North street, and carried on the blacksmith business at that shop until his last sickness. The premises are now owned and occupied by Widow Howard.* Mr. Pike was an ingenious worker in iron. When he first came to New Berlin he worked several years in the old cotton factory machine shop. He held the office of a Justice of the Peace for one or two terms. He had the reputation of being an excellent workman in all the different branches of his trade.

Lewis Winslow (who built, owned and occupied the house† where Mrs. Munn, widow of William Munn, deceased, and daughter of Mr. Winslow, now lives,) was a carpenter and worked at his trade up to the time of his decease. He built many of the old dwelling-houses in and out of the

*This site is now occupied by the residence of Mrs. J. G. Holmes.

†Still known as the Munn house.


village. He was a good workman and gave general satisfaction to his employees.

A Mr. Tammany had a tailor shop and worked at the trade of a tailor on the place where now Mrs. Spencer, widow of Albert Spencer resides.* He was the first tailor who worked at that trade in New Berlin.

*The site is now occupied by the residence of F. E. Wilber.



XVIII.

UGUSTUS C. WELCH occupied a conspicuous place among the people in the early settlement of New Berlin. He was in the employment of nail making in a shop on the north bank of the village creek, between the creek and Morgan's store,* where he manufactured nails, shaping and heading them by hand, a slow but profitable business, there being a ready sale at remunerative prices for all he could make at hand labor, to supply the wants of the settlers, who began to change their old log cabins into more commodious dwellings. Yankee ingenuity finally invented machines for making nails by a more expeditious method, which took the place of hand labor. Mr. Welch then changed his business of a nailer and became a merchant and an innkeeper. He purchased the tavern house on the corner now occupied by Gas-kin. At that time it was a small building and has since been increased by subsequent owners, to its present size. He built a store west of his tavern, and during the most active period of his life, he carried on the mercantile business, and the business of tavern-keeper at that place. He pur-

*A portion of the site of the new Eagle hotel.

chased the building lot and built the house now owned and occupied by J. T. White, where he lived the remainder of his life. The part of the building now occupied by the bank* he used for a store awhile, then purchased the premises on the corner, formerly owned by L. Blakeslee, and tore down the old Blakeslee store and built the present store† now occupied by Fuller, Ball & Co., where he traded until his last sickness, the better part of the time in company with John T. White, now cashier of the New Berlin bank, who had been his clerk. Mr. Welch had the reputation of being a prudent, careful and fair dealer in his mercantile business and he and his wife were respected and esteemed in society. In official civil service he occupied at different times the office of Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk, Supervisor, Member of Assembly, and Sheriff. In military service he passed through different grades from a private soldier up to the rank of Brigadier General.

Chas. Medbury, an enterprising emigrant, took an active part in aid of New Berlin's early settlement. By trade he was a cooper, the maker of barrels. His dwelling-house was on the south side of the east village street, an old fashioned two story building, in which he resided with his

*Now occupied by the New Berlin Library.

†On the site now occupied by the Connell building.

wife, an amiable and much respected woman. They had a large family of sons and daughters, some of whom live in the neighborhood. Others of the family have located in distant lands and the house is now a deserted mansion,* although the title yet remains in the family. Mr. Medbury had a shop on the premises, where he worked at his trade for some years, and a part of the time kept a tavern. He finally built a small store house, and leaving the tavern-keeping and barrel-making business, commenced the selling of merchandise for a while, then purchased the Van Dyke store† and dwelling-house on the village south street and entered into partnership with Ebenezer Bivins, and commenced the business of merchandise and selling drugs and medicines. Mr. Bivins was educated as an apothecary and vender of medicines, and had established the business at the Van Dyke store when Medbury made the purchase. They continued in partnership until Bivins married and went into mercantile business with his father-in-law, L. Blakeslee. Medbury & Bivins, while they were in the mercantile and drug business, also established a potash concern. Medbury built an ashery on his lot where now stands the red house opposite the

*The old house was replaced about twenty years ago by the residence now owned by I. L. Richer.

†Now owned by Mrs. Cora Fish, daughter of Delos Medbury.

school-house on North street, and they carried on the making of potash during their connection as partners.

Mr. Medbury, at the time of his decease, was the owner of considerable real estate in the village. Besides his homestead place he owned the red house lot and several acres on the east side of the street next to the school-house, the Van Dyke property, where he and Bivins traded, and the Joel Bancroft farm which he purchased of his son Daniel. Nearly all of the real estate which he owned at the time of his decease yet remains in the ownership of his children, or some of them. Some of his sons have become wealthy and respected farmers.

In town matters Mr. Medbury was an active participant and successfully held different town offices; was Constable, Collector, Justice of the Peace, Supervisor, Deputy Sheriff and Member of Assembly at different periods. His son Samuel married a daughter of Joseph Moss, and built the dwelling house now owned and occupied by George Sage.* He owned the store† now occupied by Lull, Sage & Co., and carried on the mercantile business some time, was post master a while, Supervisor one term, and finally went west and en-

*Now owned and occupied by Mrs. Levi Banks.

†Now the property of Mrs. A. H. Phelps.

tered into the lumber business, in Michigan's wild extensive pine woods, where he accumulated a great fortune by his energetic, good and wise management. A splendid monument erected to his memory by his widow marks his final resting-place in the New Berlin village cemetery.



XIX.



THE next class, after pioneer farmers, who made settlements in New Berlin, were mechanics, manufacturers and tradesmen. Some of the individuals have already been mentioned. As early as the beginning of the present century, workers in wood and iron, and in other manufacturing trades, commenced building workshops along on either bank of the village creek from near its source down to its termination in the Unadilla river. The course of the stream is nearly east and runs about through the centre of the village.

On the head waters of the stream near the west line of the village, Thomas Medbury, a gunsmith, built a shop where he manufactured rifles and smooth-bore shot-guns, for which he found purchasers among the Nimrods of up-country backwoodsmen, whose exploits, are not their histories written in the chronicles of hunting scenes of former times? Mr. Medbury's dwelling-house is the same owned and occupied by John Low.* Barnabas Brown, Jr., purchased the house and shop of Mr. Medbury, and made the gun shop into a clothing and cloth-dressing establishment, and with

*The site of the present residence of Charles Lowe.

Buel Sherman, whose wife was his sister, carried on the cloth-dressing business several years, and then sold the premises and purchased a village lot on South street, and built a dwelling house thereon, where he resided until his death some years ago. The gun-shop and cloth-dressing house and apparatus have long since disappeared.

Next down the creek was the Knap & DeForest woolen factory mentioned in a former number. James Denison purchased the factory buildings and water-works and entered into the business of making ropes from flax. While Mr. Knap owned the establishment, Aschel Edson carried on the business of carding wool in the same building. Mr. Denison sold the premises to Thomas Chapel, who made the building into a dwelling-house and built a brewery near by, and made strong beer; also he had a cider-mill for grinding apples by water power on the premises. On the decease of Mr. Chapel, the property passed into the possession of other owners, and is no longer used for any manufacturing purpose whatever.*

Knap's oil mill, where he made oil out of flax-seed, stood on the creek near the place where Benjamin Haight has a workshop for planing boards by water machinery and a furnace for cast-

*Owned by Grant B. Lowe.

ing some kinds of iron ware, and down the creek below its junction with the north branch in the paper-mill pond, are yet to be seen the remains of an old sawmill, whose water-preserved timbers antedate this generation's memory as to the time when the mill was built or by whom owned.

Up the north branch of the creek there stood another sawmill, also a carding machine and a cloth-dressing establishment. An accidental fire destroyed all the buildings with much of their contents. No mills were afterwards erected and the creek was left to tumble over a beautiful cascade and wind its way through a deep, rock-bound channel amid wild overhanging shrubbery, forming splendid scenery of nature's works in the midst of our village civilization. The old Blakeslee paper-mill, after it came into the possession of Daniel Harrington, was destroyed by fire, and he has erected a more commodious and elegant structure in its place.

The ancient gristmill owned by Blakeslee and Mallet, and lately owned and occupied by Nichols, who also attached thereto a cider-mill and cooper-shop, is next below the paper-mill.

Below the gristmill,* at the foot of the hill, on the south bank of the creek, where now stands a

*Now owned by C. M. Potter.

dwelling-house built by Chauncey Babcock,* was a distillery where rye was made into whiskey before temperance societies had their being.

Next in order were Knap's tannery and Field's trip-hammer works. The tannery was on the south bank and the trip-hammer on the north bank of the creek. Both were supplied with water from the same pond.

Goodrich's tannery, near the junction of the creek with the river, terminated the long row of ancient workshops, and the water-power labor of the creek in aid of human industry. In the by-gone days when all the workshops were in full operation, the village mechanics made their own wares, and supplied the neighbors with the products of their own labor, no ready made clothing, or ready made boots and shoes were imported from abroad, to compete with the industry of our own mechanics.

*Now the tenant house owned by Dr. J. T. Hand.

XX.



ARUNA WELCH, another early settler in New Berlin village, had his dwelling house on North street, now owned and occupied by Widow Howard; and he occupied the same shop where Augustus C. Welch made nails, for his paint-shop, he being a house-painter by trade. He was a sociable and genial man, and enjoyed the blessings of a happy disposition. About the year 1820, he moved into the Ohio country, as it was then called. He sold his homestead to Dyer Tracy, who afterwards sold it to a gunsmith by the name of Jackson, who acquired the name of "Stub-and-Twist" Jackson, for making stub and twist rifles, as he termed them, because he manufactured old nail heads and nail points, procured from blacksmith shops, into rifle barrels. Mr. Jackson had a numerous family of sons and daughters. Some of his sons worked with him in his gun-making trade. He was industrious, and a good gun-maker. He sold his house and lot to Orsemas Clark, a blacksmith, and moved back to Louisville. Mr. Clarke occupied the place some years, was an industrious worker at his trade, and built a new dwelling-house on the site where the Aruna Welch dwelling-

house stood. His wife was Thomas Steere's daughter. He sold the place to widow Harris, and purchasing the corner lot opposite the Blakeslee premises, on Genesee street, built the house* now on the premises, lived there some time and finally went over into Pittsfield to a place where he carried on farming and hop-raising the remainder of his days, leaving to his widow and his son Charles his property, acquired by prudent, economical habits and honest labor.

Vine Welch owned the next dwelling-house and lot north of the Welch lot. He was one of the first settlers in the village, and by trade a maker of spinning-wheels, both great and small; the one for making yarn from wool and tow, the lesser wheel to spin flax into thread or yarn to be woven into linen cloth; and quill-wheels to wind skeins of yarns for the weaver's shuttle. In the spring season of the year the buzzing spinning-wheels made manifest that the farmers' thrifty wives and daughters were busy at their accustomed avocations. In the days when homespun cloth was made into wearing apparel for the men and women, Mr. Vine Welch found abundant employment in supplying his customers with the means of making their own clothing by hand. His widow and children remained on the place some years

*The "Beardsley house," corner Genesee and Greene streets.

after his decease. The two daughters married and moved into the western states. His son remained on the place and worked at the carpenter's trade some years. He purchased the hatter's shop belonging to Sylvester Walker, which stood on the place where now stands the brick dwelling-house owned and occupied by Ira Butterfield, and moved it on to the premises, and used it for his workshop. The building is the long, two story part of the dwelling-house now owned by Mrs. Thurber.*

Vine Welch sold the premises to Mr. Willard, who occupied them several years before his decease, when the title passed to his daughter-in-law, by will, who now owns the place and rents it to tenants.

Sylvester Walker, of whom mention has been made, was a hatter by trade, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Worthington, at Cooperstown, married a sister of General DeForest's wife, bought the house and lot now owned and occupied by Frederick Furman,† and bought the lot now owned by Mr. Butterfield, built the hat-shop as already mentioned, and carried on the hatter business several years, and finally sold out and went into one of the western states. He came to New Berlin

*The site now occupied by the residence of W. R. Clarke.


†Now the property of Mrs. Cora Beardslee.

about the year 1817, was one of the prominent citizens while he remained and was a sociable and good neighbor. Mr. Meacham first owned the premises and built the dwelling-house which he sold to Mr. Walker. He was a chair-maker, and many of his chairs are yet in being. In the early days of the settlement, wood was plenty and mechanics made their ware more for durability than for ornament. Mr. Meacham was an industrious worker at his trade, and after selling his homestead to Mr. Walker he departed for the west.

Mr. Nehemiah Dyer worked in the old cotton factory several years and after accumulating a sufficient sum to enable him to buy a wild lot, he purchased the lot back of the Great Brook, which he cleared up and lived on until his decease, leaving a good property to his wife and children. His wife was a daughter of John Blackman, who worked in the machine shop with Dyer. This Mr. Blackman was by trade a cabinet and chair-maker, and a first-rate workman.

Mr. Dyer was a good farmer and a much respected citizen. His wife made cheese of a superior quality, and better adapted to the taste of lovers of good cheese than can be found in modern cheese-making factories. Mr. Dyer left his estate to his wife and children. One of his sons married a daughter of William Jackson, a wagon-maker, who was an emigrant from England.

XXI.

AWSON JUDSON came up from old Connecticut and settled in New Berlin village about the year 1814. He purchased a building lot on South street, and erected a one-story dwelling-house and shop thereon, and in after years he raised the building to the dignity of a two-story dwelling-house. The premises now belong to Mrs. Cheney, her husband, in his lifetime, having purchased the same and transferred the title to her.

Mr. Judson was by trade a tailor, and was esteemed as a good and respectable citizen, and an honest and industrious worker at the business of making garments for his customers, giving satisfaction to his employers. Writing his name brings back to recollection the pleasant times of trout-fishing excursions we had together, amid the woodland scenery in the spring season, when the forest trees were resuming their green summer dress. Early life's associations are not easily erased. Mr. Judson with his family went into the State of Michigan, and settled at Port Huron, some forty years ago. He lived to an advanced

*Now owned by Frank Elmer.

age, leaving his wife and one daughter to inherit the fruits of his labor.

Russell Cheney, who became the owner of Mr. Judson's place, as before stated, was apprentice to the tanner's trade in Mr. Charles Knap's employment. On the expiration of his apprenticeship he continued to work as a journeyman for Mr. Knap some years. He married Phila Harris, the daughter of Charles Harris, already mentioned, and built a dwelling-house on a lot belonging to his wife, where he lived during the life-time of his wife and worked at the shoemaker's trade. Sometime after his wife's death, he sold the house and lot, having by the will of his wife become the owner thereof, and purchased the Judson premises, married Miss Pratt, and lived with her in her dwelling-house next adjoining his premises, during the remainder of his life. Before his death he conveyed by deed to his wife the Judson house and lot, which his widow still owns. Mr. Cheney was a good neighbor and industrious.

The gabled-roofed house* on the north side of the street next east of H. H. Harrington's dwelling-house is one of the oldest dwelling-houses in the village. It was owned and occupied by a Dr. Coleman as a druggist and apothecary shop in the early days of the first settlement of New Berlin.

*On the site of the present residence of H. S. Wightman.

Mr. Coleman was educated to the science of compounding and dealing in medicine. Formerly no person unless educated to the business, sold medicine or kept a drug store; an apothecary was supposed to understand the art of compounding medicine by previous study and exclusive practice in that particular business, and physicians were carefully instructed into the mysteries of their profession, and their competence tested by examination before being admitted to prescribe the apothecary's medicine to their patients. Mrs. Howard, the mother of General DeForest's wife, purchased the Dr. Coleman shop and converted it into a dwelling-house, and with her son, Henry Howard and his wife, lived there some years, and then sold the place to Mrs. Rhodes, who is the present owner and its occupant.

Asahel Hatch, after Dr. Coleman went away, came to the village and entered into the business of an apothecary. He was well instructed in the business of compounding medicine. He occupied the store built by Isaac Van Dyke on South street* now known as the Medbury store. Mr. Hatch was a young man, intelligent and possessed of an amiable disposition and well qualified in the science of compounding medicine. He left New

*Now the property of Mrs. Cora Fish, and occupied as a meat market.

Berlin about the year 1818, and went with General DeForest on a raft of lumber from Olean to New Orleans. On the way he stopped at Natchez and when ready to go on, Mr. Hatch could not be found. It was generally supposed by his friends that he had been murdered. His fate was never known.

Ebenezer Bivens succeeded Mr. Hatch in the drug business, in the Van Dyke store. Charles Medbury, Esq., having purchased the Van Dyke property, he rented the store to Mr. Bivens. He served his clerkship with George Pomeroy, an eminent druggist at Cooperstown, and he obtained a competent knowledge of his profession. He married the eldest daughter of Levi Blakeslee, and purchased a building lot and erected a dwelling-house on the west side of South street. Tracy Knap afterwards purchased the premises and built the house which the late John Harris owned and occupied at the time of his decease.* Mr. Bivens, after a while, formed a co-partnership with Mr. Medbury and united the selling of merchandise with drugs and medicines. On the dissolution of the firm of Medbury & Bivens, Mr. Bivens formed a co-partnership with his father-in-law, Mr. Blakeslee, and traded in the old Blakeslee store for several years. He finally went into the western coun-

*Now the residence of Dr. J. T. Hand.

try, and became a farmer during the remainder of his life. Mr. Bivens was an active man of business. While in New Berlin he had occasionally held some town office. In the military, he arose from a private soldier up to the rank of a Colonel of a regiment.

A Mr. David Atherton owned the premises on which Amenzo Cady's shop and the Medbury store now stand. He came from Connecticut and built a small, one-story dwelling-house thereon, about where the blacksmith shop now stands. He was a saddler by occupation, sold out to Isaac Van Dyke, and went into the adjoining town, Columbus.

Isaac Van Dyke came from New Jersey and was a tailor by trade and worked for customers contemporaneously with Tailor Judson. His family was connected with the TenBroeck family of Pittsfield. He built the Medbury store, now so called, and rented while he lived. He had but one child, Betsey Van Dyke, who married a Mr. Birdney DeForest and went into one of the western states. The store is now owned by Delos Medbury, a son of Charles Medbury, and rented. The dwelling-house has given place to a blacksmith shop.

Calvin Thompson was one of the early settlers in New Berlin village, was a carpenter by trade, \

and one of our good old-fashioned citizens and much esteemed for his industrious and quiet habits. He left his homestead dwelling* and premises to his son, Alfred Thompson, who now resides on the place. It is situated a little below the Baptist Church on the west side of the road.

*Now owned by S. W. Harrington.



XXII.



ANIEL HILLS was an emigrant from the Yankee land of New England. He came to New Berlin in 1815 and settled on a farm on the bank of the Unadilla river, about a mile below the village. He was a cabinet and chair manufacturer by occupation, and worked at that business in conjunction with the cultivation of his farm. His cabinet and chair materials were of the substantial kind, and found a ready market among the old settlers, who found them more commodious than they were wont to have for household furniture.

The old cabinet and chair shop which he built, and in which he and his sons, Spaulding and Albert, worked many years, is yet standing there. Mr. Hills was much respected by his neighbors and acquaintances, and was a fair and honest dealer in his business. His children inherited his property, and his son Albert now owns and lives on the farm.*

Joseph and Seth Hooper settled on farms above Mr. Hills'. Joseph Hooper was a chair-maker and a house-painter. Many of the old village buildings were indebted to his paint-brush for the

*Now owned by Herbert Hills, a son of Albert.

new dress coat of paint. He left his property to his son Alva, who lived on the farm some years after his father's death and finally sold the farm to Thomas Beatty, whose heirs are now the occupants.* Seth Hooper was a blacksmith. On his decease his farm passed into the hands of strangers. Robert Jeffrey is now its owner and lives on it, and by his practical farming operations has greatly increased its value.†

On the mountain ridge between the river and Great Brook, emigrants from the eastern states made lodgement, built log cabins and founded a settlement conjointly with the lowland river settlements. Joel Moffatt, and Elijah Moffatt his brother, pitched their habitations on lands near what, in former times, was known as the Swan farm.‡ They sold it to Levi Blakeslee, and the farm is now owned and occupied by David Baird, a thrifty farmer. The Moffatts were active, energetic and perserving backwoodsmen. In the spring rafting-time the owners employed them to run their rafts of pine lumber down the river to the Baltimore market. They were skilled pilots and were much employed in the rafting business. They left New Berlin

*Now owned by C. A. Pope.

†Now owned by O. F. Matterson.

‡Now known as the Samuel Sargent farm.

many years ago, to find new homes in a distant western state.

Alpha West and his brother David, were among the first settlers in the neighborhood of the Swan farm. It was the custom then to have company trainings, officer trainings and regimental trainings yearly, and Alpha and David performed their military duties as musicians, making the wild woods ring with martial music on parade days. They too, went west a long time ago to seek their fortune in other lands.

Abner Angell, a brother of Asa Angell, settled on a lot near the Swan farm, about the same time his brother settled on his river farm. He was esteemed as an honest, upright neighbor and a good citizen. He left children to inherit his property, and one or more of his grandsons now live on the old homestead farm.

On the creek which has its source some distance north of the old Thomas Brown farm, and running southerly nearly the length of the mountain ridge, then, turning east, pours down the hill into the valley and mingles its waters with the Unadilla river, saw-mills were built; the first one near the source of the stream, by David Adams and Thomas Brown, who owned and occupied it several years after it was erected.

William Hill owned another saw-mill near where the creek began to descend into the valley and the

Davises had another saw-mill on the creek in the valley, near where the river road crossed the creek.

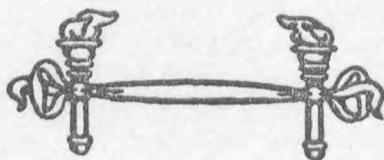
Charles Cowan was a silversmith, and a dealer in time-keeping instruments. He came to New Berlin about the time the village was incorporated, in 1816, and built unto himself a work-shop on the bank of the village creek, which building is now owned and occupied by Almon Babcock.* In this shop Mr. Cowan repaired, regulated and put in order old family clocks, old men's watches, (in those early days of prudence and economy boys did not possess watches) hammered out and fashioned Spanish milled dollars into silver table-spoons and silver tea-spoons, and made and sold other trinkets. He introduced among the old settlers more expensive and elegant luxuries and wares than they had been wont to enjoy. He owned and occupied the gable-roofed house on East street, now owned by Mrs. Rhodes. Mr. Cowan remained in the village a few years, sold his estate and moved to an eastern city.

Fabius M. Bradford was the next silversmith after Mr. Cowan. He worked in the same shop, married the eldest daughter of Peleg Field, Esq., and built his dwelling-house on North street, which is the same dwelling-house† now owned and

*Destroyed in the fire of 1898.

†The site is now occupied by the residence of G. J. Matteson.

occupied by Mrs. Dodge. After the death of his wife, Mr. Bradford sold his place and went away to reside elsewhere. Other workers in the silver-smith's business have in modern times carried on their business in the village, supplying the present generation with modern regulators of time, and modern, fashionable gold and silver ware.



XXIII.



IVINES, doctors and lawyers formed another class of immigrants in the early settlement of New Berlin, and in their several professional departments contributed to the general welfare.

The first church erected in New Berlin was a wooden building and was on the same site where now stands the stone Episcopal church in the village. It was an old-fashioned constructed building, in the old-fashioned style, with high, raised pulpit, old family seats or pews, with doors to admit the ingress and egress of the family occupants, and a singers' gallery on each side and the end opposite the pulpit, formed the inside arrangement of the old-fashioned church for the accommodation of the church-going inhabitants of the early days of New Berlin settlement; and on the Sabbath day might be seen parents and children wending their way to this house of public worship clad in clean old-fashioned homespun and homemade garments, some afoot, others on horseback, and now and then a family in an old lumber wagon.

On the 14th day of April, 1814, Nathan Summers, Abel Adams, Stephen Skinner, Jabez Beardslee, Jonathan Hubby, Bildad Welch, Aug-

ustus C. Welch, Salmon Mallet, Hyatt Banks, Darius Jacques, Abel Adams, Jr., Salmon Fairchild, Reuben Stocking and Uri Tuttle formed themselves into an Episcopal society by an agreement in writing, by name, style and title of "Saint Andrew's church, in the town of New Berlin," and in the same day a meeting of the same persons was held at the house of Asa Perry, in New Berlin, to form an Episcopal society, and the Rev. Daniel Nash was called to the chair and Augustus C. Welch was chosen clerk, at which meeting Nathan Summers and Stephen Skinner were chosen Wardens, and Jonathan Hubby, Reuben Stocking, Jabez Beardslee, Levi Blakeslee, Trustee; Jonathan Hubby, Uri Tuttle, Bildad Welch and Augustus C. Welch were chosen vestrymen. By a resolution passed at that meeting the yearly meeting of "the Society of St. Andrews Church" was fixed "to be held on Wednesday in Easter week, in each and every year thereafter."

The building having been erected, the next annual meeting was held in the church, on Wednesday in Easter week, being the 29th day of March, 1815, when besides wardens and vestrymen, two trustees, Jabez Beardslee and Augustus C. Welch were chosen, and for choristers, Elijah Turner, Dyer Tracy Asahel Edson and Lemuel Bennett were chosen. On the 6th day of September, 1816, John Henry Hobart, Bishop of the

Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of New York, consecrated the church of St. Andrew's Parish. It was a mild, pleasant, autumnal day, and a great gathering of people to witness the ceremony occupied the building at an early hour, waiting. At length the Bishop appeared, in his sacerdotal robe of white surplice, and as he crossed the threshold and proceeded with measured steps up the broad aisle, in solemn cadence, and a deep, mellow-toned voice he proclaimed "The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence," thus announcing to the expectant gathering that the ceremony of dedication had commenced, and from the beginning to the conclusion, the vast concourse were held in silent wonderment. The scene was solemn and impressive and a beautiful illustration of the influence of the Christian religion on the happiness of the human race.

The St. Andrew's Church of New Berlin was the first Episcopal church which had been dedicated west of the Unadilla river, and the event marked a new era to the first settlers of New Berlin.

At a meeting of the vestry on the 14th of October, 1816, a resolution was passed to sell the seats of St. Andrew's Church for one year's occupancy, to raise money to hire a rector. The sale for that purpose amounted to \$343, or thereabouts. On the 10th day of November, 1816, the vestry

adopted a resolution to employ Rev. William B. Lacy, for the one-fourth part of the time of one year, to commence on the first day of January then next ensuing, for the sum of \$175, and at the same meeting of the vestry, a resolution was passed "to purchase a house lot in the village, for the accommodation of clergymen," and that Jabez Beardslee, Charles Knap and Levi Blakeslee be a committee to make the purchase. The resolution was afterwards carried into effect and a lot purchased on the south street opposite the church, and a parsonage house built.


The Rev. William B. Lacy was the first Episcopalian rector, who officiated in St Andrew's church after its consecration. He officiated a part of the time in Oxford, and the other portion of time in New Berlin. In the prime of life he was an energetic and active man in his clerical profession, possessing splendid oratorical powers, genial in disposition, liberal in sentiments, and with a well cultivated intellect, he was peculiarly fitted to preside over the affairs of the infant church. After Mr. Lacy left, the Rev. Daniel Nash was the next pastor, and from that period up to the present time, there have been many in succession employed to perform ministerial duties in St. Andrew's Church, whose names are unnecessary to write.

The next church built in New Berlin village was the Presbyterian. It was erected on a lot on

North street on the west side, nearly opposite the old elm tree, and afterwards moved down to a lot on the south side of the east street, nearly opposite to the ancient gable-roofed dwelling-house mentioned in a former communication. There are also a Methodist church on the east side of South street, near the common school house, on that street, and a Baptist church standing at the junction of the south street, and the road which passes over the Unadilla river into Otsego county. There is also one church at Ambler settlement, and another at South New Berlin, all of which were erected in the early days of the settlement of the town, and have been well supported by the people. The tree which Paul planted and Apollos watered, has borne some fruit in the western wilderness of New Berlin's first settlement.



XXIV.

 DOCTOR DEAN FOOTE was the first professor in the art of healing "the ills that the flesh is heir to," who settled in New Berlin. In the matter of the old bear conflict he has already been mentioned, and we will only add he was a useful and meritorious citizen among the early inhabitants.

Dr. Ebenezer Ross succeeded him in practice; his home was in New Berlin village. He built his dwelling house on the north side of East street, now owned and occupied by Henry Tew.* Dr. Ross was a careful and successful practitioner; dealt out the pills and wielded the lance with skill. Royal Ross took the place of his uncle, the old doctor, on his decease. He purchased and lived in the dwelling-house now owned by Frederick Firman, on the east side of North street, and built the brick office on the premises.† After the decease of his first wife he married the widow of Nathan Beardslee, deceased, and lived in the house formerly owned by his uncle already mentioned,

*The property is now owned by C. H. Gross.

†The site is now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Cora Beardslee.

“The Old Brick Office”

Occupied by the late John Hyde. An ancient
landmark, demolished only a few years ago.



Drawn from photo by
S. T. Dwyer

during the remainder of his days. Dr. Royal Ross was an active, energetic and skillful physician, and took much interest in town affairs and in common school business.

Dr. Hurd, a student in Doctor Mitchell's office of Norwich, practiced as a physician a short period in New Berlin, and then went to Oswego. He was a man of superior ability in the medical profession. Dr. Hermon Gray resided in the house now owned and occupied by widow Howard a few years, and gave medical aid to the sick, then moved into one of the old western states and changed his occupation into a cultivator of the soil. Dr. Russell B. Burch settled on South street near the bank, and built the dwelling-house in which his widow now resides,* was a good physician, and a useful member of society.

Dr. Dyer Loomis purchased the dwelling-house which Amos Matteson built on the east side of South street, adjoining the Episcopal parsonage house, where he still resides. His extensive practice manifested the confidence of the community in his mode and skill in the treatment of patients.

Dr. Knight and Dr. Bellows were early settlers in South New Berlin, and were worthy members of the medical department. The foregoing named professors of medicine were admitted to practice

*The house is now owned by Miss Emma Medbury.

under the old order, appertaining to the regulation of the medical department, and when diplomas were given under rules and regulations requiring a competent knowledge of the healing art, before the student was admitted to deal out medicine to patients, and before patent medicines found way into public notice through the channel of a common almanac, or the columns of some country newspaper.

Among the pioneer lawyers, Abijah Bennett was the first lawyer who settled in New Berlin, but in the war of 1812, his law license was exchanged for a captain's military commission, under which he enlisted soldiers, formed a military recruiting camp in the then pine woods on the east side of the village North street near where the Masonic hall now stands, where he taught soldiers the art of war, instead of pleading the cause of clients in our courts of justice.

Noah Ely, a lawyer, built his family residence on the west side of North street, where he resided until his decease; his family still occupying the place.* He was some time town clerk, a member of the State Legislature one term, and was judge advocate in Gen. Augustus C. Welch's brigade of infantry.

*The site is now occupied by the residences of J. L. Dykes and W. H. Lottridge.

John Hyde, a lawyer, built his dwelling-house on the east side of North street, near the old elm tree, venerable for its integrity, and remarkable for its long drooping limbs, as if mourning for the absence of its early associate trees. Its age dates back to the period when the red men were the owners of the ground on which it stands, J. Hyde was sometimes town clerk, a Justice of the Peace, and also held the commission of Judge Advocate in General DeForest's brigade of horse artillery.

Charles A. Thorp, a lawyer, was with Hyde in the practice of law a short time, and went to Oxford as a partner with John Tracy.

Nathan Beardslee, a lawyer, settled in New Berlin, purchased the dwelling-house built by Ebenzer Ross, deceased, and lived there until his decease. He held the office of Supervisor one term.

Henry Southworth, a lawyer, when the wooden Episcopal Church building was pulled down to make a place for the stone edifice, purchased the vestry room and moved it on to the ground now occupied by Hazard & Dykes' drug and apothecary store, and converted it into a law office in which he transacted law business during his sojourn in New Berlin.* He is now in law practice in

*The building was later removed, and now forms part of a house on North Main street, owned and rented by Charlotte Arnold.

the city of New York. A village wag on hearing that the old time-honored vestry room had been transformed into a law shop said it reminded him of a certain other event recorded in scripture, when Christ charged upon the Jews that "they had turned the temple into a den of thieves."

Samuel S. Randall, a lawyer, practiced law in the village and then engaged in other business. He now resides in the city of New York, occupied in literary pursuits.

Alonzo Johnson, a lawyer, undertook law business in the village, finally changed his profession for a clerkship in one of the public offices in the city of Washington, where he ended his days.

Albert L. Pritchard practiced law in New Berlin, went into the banking business in one of the western states, and is in business in the city of New York.

Henry Bennett, a lawyer, purchased the brick dwelling-house on North street (now owned and occupied by Ira Butterfield,) and lived there during the remainder of his days. He was a member of Congress a number of successive terms, and was an industrious and energetic member in the discharge of his official duty.

George W. Sumner, his brother-in-law, was his partner in law business, and owned and lived in the dwelling-house on North Street at the junction

of Academy Street.* He was Justice of the Peace, sometime a United States Post Master, and was a member of the State Legislature two terms in succession. His fate, however, was sad, for soon after the expiration of his second term of office, while taking a pleasure excursion with some friends on one of the small lakes in the western part of the State, the boat was suddenly overturned and in attempting to swim ashore he was drowned.

*Now owned and occupied by Isaac Holmes.

